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Rafsanjani berates West in letter to Major

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, has sent a seven-page letter to British Prime Minister John Major in which he berated the West's "double standards," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday. The agency said Mr. Rafsanjani criticised Britain for what he said were attempts to "politicise" the issue of Iran's death threat on Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses." Mr. Rafsanjani repeated in his message that the four-year-old edict, issued by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the author for allegedly insulting Islam in his novel, was in force and "there was no way in which it could be lifted," IRNA said. Mr. Rafsanjani added that "Iran's policy opposes employing any kind of force in international relations, categorically denounces terrorism in all aspects, does not intervene in internal affairs and respects both international law and domestic regulations," IRNA reported. It said copies of the letter were sent to the leaders of the 11 other European Community (EC) countries. Mr. Rafsanjani accused the West of spreading "false propaganda" about Iran.

King meets team back from tour

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a Jordanian delegation which visited the independent Islamic republics in Central Asia and Russia. The delegation was headed by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and other officials attended the King's meeting with the team. Prince Ra'd said in a statement read before King Hussein that the visits were successful and that the delegation discussed with officials in the Islamic republics relations between Jordan and their governments. The delegation also signed agreements on establishing diplomatic ties and cooperating in cultural, scientific and economic fields. Prince Ra'd said. "We concluded our tour by visiting the Russian Federation, where we delivered His Majesty's message to President Boris Yeltsin to his deputy since he was out of Moscow," he said adding that the delegation discussed with Russian officials scopes of cooperation and issues of common interest. In addition to Russia, the delegation visited the republics of Uzbekistan, Turkemenistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

King: Failure to achieve peace in Mideast will be devastating

His Majesty warns against any substantial delay in peace talks, voices hope conditions will be better soon

Christopher pays tribute to Jordan's role and record in peace process and the Kingdom's democratisation drive

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday warned against any substantial delay in the resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks, saying that the price of failure to achieve Middle East peace "will be devastating."

While stressing that the problem of about 400 Palestinians Israel expelled to South Lebanon in mid-December constitutes an obstacle to progress in the stalled Arab-Israeli negotiations, the King expressed hope that conditions would soon be right for the resumption of the negotiations.

Arab parties to the talks boycotted the negotiations Dec. 17 to protest the Israeli expulsion of the Palestinians.

"There are obstacles in the path of progress at this stage and there is great anger and anxiety over the question of the deportees and indeed over the growing number of casualties in the occupied territories in the recent past," the King said during a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

King Hussein, however, said that efforts are being made to address the problem, stressing the need for a quick return to the negotiation table.

"I believe very very strongly that there not be too much of a break (in the peace talks) and let time lapse to the point where we have to make a fresh start," King Hussein said.

The King did not say directly whether Jordan would resume its peace talks with Israel before the evictees problem is solved but said efforts "are being made right now to deal with it and to remove the obstacle from the path of all concerned in the region so that we move as quickly as we can and seize the moment."

The King said he was encouraged to see the new American administration assume its responsibilities in the region as Mr. Christopher reiterated the U.S. preparedness to become a full partner in the talks.

King Hussein said Jordan remains committed to the cause of just, durable and comprehensive peace on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and Mr. Christopher said the U.S. was looking forward to work with Jordan towards that end.

"No country has made more progress or indeed as much progress as Jordan in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. We look forward with great expectations to working closely with His Majesty to seek a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Christopher said the U.S. intends to play an active role in the region and reactivate the peace talks. But he reported no new U.S. measures to pressure Israel into returning all the evictees to the occupied territories, a demand upon which the Palestinians have conditioned their decision to resume the negotiations.

A senior U.S. official was Friday quoted as saying the U.S. would work to get Israel speed up the judicial review of individual cases of the expellees and Israeli officials Saturday declined comment on the U.S. suggestion.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-

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His Majesty King Hussein with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Royal Palace Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Cabinet approves draft labour law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet approved in a meeting held Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker a new draft labour law. According to Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, the endorsement of the law followed intensive meetings by the Council of Ministers which showed special interest in drafting "this advanced law" in the shortest possible time. He said the draft law would be sent to the Lower House of Parliament this week.

Global warming may threaten 900 million

BONN (R) — Global warming may kill up to 900 million people through starvation over the next 40 years according to a respected German science institute, a magazine said Saturday. The Fraunhofer Institute in Munich said its estimate was based on climate researchers' predictions that the amount of carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere will double by 2030. Carbon dioxide, produced by burning fossil fuels, traps heat from the sun in the earth's atmosphere. The institute estimated that destruction of arable land and infrastructure, natural disasters and starvation resulting from global warming by 2030 would cost $900 trillion worldwide. The institute's findings were released by Focus news magazine.

Kafi visits Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Algerian leader Ali Kafi arrived in neighbouring Tunisia Saturday for a two-day visit to relaunch bilateral cooperation and advance the Arab Maghreb Union. The trip is Mr. Kafi's second abroad since he took over as head of Algeria's five-man presidency following the assassination last June of Head of State Mohammad Boudiaf.

Guinean gets top U.N. job for Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Guinea's permanent representative to the United Nations, Larisana Kouyate, has been appointed deputy special envoy for Somalia. Reporting directly to Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Mr. Kouyate will take over in acting capacity the duties of special U.N. Representative for Somalia Ismat Kittani, whose three-month assignment ends this month, U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi told reporters.

Libyan envoy visits Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The Libyan and Syrian foreign ministers, Omar Mustafa Al Montasser and Farouk Al Sharaa, discussed the Lockerbie dispute in Damascus Saturday, officials said. The officials said Mr. Montasser and Mr. Sharaa specifically discussed the work of an Arab ministerial committee set up to find a solution to Libya's dispute with the West. Mr. Montasser later met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad with Mr. Sharaa present, they added.

Yemeni minister arrives in S. Arabia

SANAA (R) — Yemen's oil and mineral resources minister arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday on a visit underlining the recent improvement in strained relations over Yemen's support of Iraq in the Gulf war. The minister, Saleh Abu Bakr Ben Hussainoun, told reporters in Sanaa before leaving for Riyadh he was carrying a message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Saudi King Fahd.

SLA shells villages

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli-affiliated militiamen on Saturday shelled and sniped at villages north of their enclave in South Lebanon. Police said a young girl was wounded. Police said the intermittent barrage started shortly after daybreak (0400 GMT). It followed overnight sniping by militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon army. He said Zainab Hammoud, 1, was wounded in her left leg by a sniper fire near the village of Arab Saleem, north of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone." He said the SLA move apparently was a precautionary measure by the Israeli-affiliated militia to foil guerrilla activity.

Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian in Tulkarem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank Friday night, military officials said.

They said an army unit opened fire when it encountered two masked Palestinians during an operation in the Tulkarem refugee camp. One of them was badly wounded and the other escaped.

The wounded man, who died as he was being treated by an army doctor, was allegedly carrying two loaded pistols, according to the officials.

Israel meanwhile played down a decision by the United Nations human rights commission to appoint for the first time a special investigator to monitor alleged Israeli abuses in the occupied territories.

"The Human Rights Commission in Geneva passes similar resolutions year after year which are unconnected with reality," foreign ministry spokesman Eviatar Manor told Reuters.

Despite opposition from the United States, the commission — the U.N.'s main human rights forum — passed four resolutions on Friday condemning Israel for violating the rights of Palestinians living under Israeli rule.

One of the resolutions asked the commission to appoint a "special rapporteur" to investigate violations of international law and the Geneva conventions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.N. officials said a stronger Third World contingent on the 53-member commission and anger at Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon on Dec. 17 allowed member states to push through stronger resolutions this year.

Israeli forces have killed 48 Palestinians in the occupied territories since the mass expulsion.

Israeli officials declined to comment Saturday on a U.S. suggestion that Israel speed up judicial reviews for the Palestinians expelled to Lebanon.

U.S. officials travelling in the

(Continued on page 5)

Exiles reject U.S.-mooted appeal-process compromise

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — The spokesman for nearly 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel to Lebanon Saturday rejected American efforts to accelerate their phased return home.

Senior U.S. officials travelling with Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the Middle East said the Clinton administration has called for Israel to use its appellate court process to speed the repatriation of the expelled Palestinians.

They said the humanitarian gesture would not undermine an agreement that Mr. Christopher reached Feb. 1 with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to repatriate 101 evictees.

The evictees spokesman, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, told reporters: "The goodwill gesture aims at recognising the (expulsion) order and is an effort to circumvent U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for our immediate return home. He will foil any attempt to circumvent Resolution 799."

Dr. Rantisi, talking to reporters at the expellees' tent camp between Israeli and Lebanese army lines in southeast Lebanon, said the expelled men would "not accept any attempt aimed at a phased return home."

The new U.S. approach to the crisis is aimed at opening the way towards resuming Arab-Israeli peace talks stalled since Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon on Dec. 17.

Dr. Rantisi said Mr. Christopher must not commit himself to such proposals during his current Middle East tour.

The secretary of state, he said, should "study and understand the position of the deportees (exiles) and its rigidity before he involves himself in a situation that will bring him failure."

Last month, Mr. Christopher hammered out a timetable with Mr. Rabin under which 101 evictees could return immediately and the rest by the end of this year at the latest.

Now, U.S. officials are saying Israel should put into effect a judicial review procedure of all expulsion cases which had been part of Mr. Rabin's compromise package from the beginning.

Asked if he believed Arab negotiators would return to the peace talks before the deportees issue was resolved, he said: "The Arab states will not accept to sit with he who (expels) Palestinians, kills their children and destroys their homes."

Dr. Rantisi on Friday demanded a no expulsion pledge from Israel, vowing that the expellees would adopt a new stand regarding efforts to repatriate them if such a commitment was announced by the Jewish state. He refused to disclose further details.

Meanwhile, the evictees remained confined to their 50 tents to shelter from rain. Most of them were chanting a new song that they composed recently.

"O Security Council, where are your efforts to implement your Resolution (799)?" the song says.

Shopkeeper attacked in Tabarbur

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 50-year-old shopkeeper in the Tabarbur suburb of Amman was seriously wounded in an attack Saturday morning in the latest of a series of incidents posing a serious challenge to the security authorities.

A brief statement issued by the Public Security Directorate (PSD) said the target of the latest attack was a bookshop in Tabarbur, and the victim, identified by his initials as M.M., suffered severe head injuries inflicted by a "heavy tool."

The victim, who was admitted to Al Bashir Hospital, suffered at least seven injuries and is undergoing treatment, the statement said.

It said that preliminary investigations indicated that the attack occurred around 7 a.m., but that nothing was stolen from the store. It did not give any details.

No official was immediately available for further comment.

It was the ninth in a series of attacks and petty robberies which began in mid-September; two of the victims died and others suffered injuries to the skull with a heavy instrument, most probably a hammer, according to police sources.

In all cases, cash carried in person by the victims was missing, but strangely cash registers were left untouched.

Despite the common features in the attacks which have produced the media nickname "Abu Shakoush" (hammerman) for the assailant(s), sources say police believe that more than one person or group could be involved in the incidents.

In a statement issued last week, PSD Director-General Fadel Ali Fuheid sought to reassure the public that police had intensified their investigations into the cases and expressed confidence that the culprit (s) would be nabbed soon.

He indicated that police had some clues and it was only a matter of time before the cases were solved. In the meantime he appealed for cooperation from the public in police investigations.

Crime experts believe that if indeed the attacks were carried out by copycat criminals then police face an uphill task.

"If that is the case, then the problem would be of a large magnitude," said one expert. "It would be relatively not very difficult to solve the cases if one person or group was behind all of them. But if several persons or groups are working independently of each other, then it would be a tough nut to crack."

Another cause of worry for

(Continued on page 5)

Christopher flies into Syria saying no new proposal to resolve crisis

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived Saturday on the third leg of his mission to rescue the stalemated Arab-Israeli peace talks and said he hopes all parties would "sustain their strong commitment to meaningful negotiations."

Mr. Christopher, making his first foray into the Middle East arena since his appointment, was greeted at Damascus airport by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

The secretary flew in from Amman (see separate story). He was scheduled to meet President Hafez Al Assad Sunday before flying to the Gulf.

Mr. Christopher said in an arrival statement that he came "to convey President (Bill) Clinton's strong commitment to working as a full partner in trying to reactivate the peace process" begun in Madrid in October 1991.

Mr. Christopher said he had no new proposals to solve the problem of Palestinian expellees.

"I come here primarily to listen, to assess the interest of the parties, to find out where the negotiations are standing," he told reporters at Damascus airport.

"We do not have any specific proposals to advance beyond what is already on the table."

Palestinians refuse to return to the peace talks unless 396 Palestinians deported by Israel in December are allowed to return home.

Mr. Christopher said he stood by the deal worked out by Israel and the United States, by which 101 expellees could return immediately and the banishment of the others is reduced to one year.

Mr. Sharaa said he hoped the secretary of state's discussions would help implement the U.N. resolution calling for the return of all the evictees.

"We hope the discussions would prove to be positive and constructive," Mr. Sharraa said.

"The deportees issue is an obstacle so far. We hope all deportees would be able to go back home and the parties concerned be able to resume the bilateral talks as soon as possible."

Mr. Christopher reaffirmed Washington's commitment to the peace process "provided the parties do their part."

He praised Syria's decision to join the negotiations, saying its presence had helped the talks get started. He also praised its participation in the multinational force which ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait in 1991.

Mr. Sharaa said he hoped all the parties to the talks would "be able to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to remove the obstacles standing in the way."

Despite the Arab parties' chagrin at the slow pace of the negotiations, none is eager to break off the talks at this stage.

But with Israel intensifying its "security" operations in the occupied territories, continuing construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and defying the United Nations, they see the current crisis as a test of the fledgling Clinton administration's resolve.

Syria's Al Thawra daily said in an editorial Saturday: "It is meaningless to resume bilateral peace talks while peace in the region is blocked by Israeli intransigence."

It was one of the most strongly-worded Syrian statements on the crisis since it began Dec. 17.

Al Thawra said that if Mr. Christopher wants to "push the

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Hijacker of Russian plane surrenders in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A Russian airliner, hijacked by a man who stalked the aisles carrying two hand grenades, flew from Estonia to Sweden Saturday. The hijacker finally relented on his demands to go to the United States, however, and surrendered, police said.

Police said none of the approximately 42 people still abroad the plane was injured. They said the hijacker placed his hand grenades on the stairs to the plane and gave himself up at Stockholm airport, after about 5½ hours of negotiations.

He was taken away in a police bus.

The hijacker, accompanied by his wife and baby boy, commandeered the twin-engine Tupolev 134 plane on a flight from Siberia to St. Petersburg.

His wife was stunned by his actions and sat in the back of the aircraft during the ordeal. No-one was reported injured.

The hijacker agreed to stopovers in Europe after authorities convinced him the aircraft did not have enough fuel to fly to the United States directly.

The aircraft landed first in Tallinn, Estonia, then Stockholm, and it was believed the hijacker hoped to hopscotch his way to the United States.

Sixty-six passengers and six crew were originally aboard, but nearly three dozen people, including three Americans, were released in Estonia.

There, the Baltic news service said the hijacker gave officials a three-page, handwritten letter stating, "We will land in New York together or we will die together."

The man relented and freed 12 more people in Stockholm, but police spokesman Ola Karlsson quoted the hijacker as saying there would be no further releases.

The plane was surrounded by police in riot gear while authorities negotiated with the hijacker.

Superintendent Nils G. Danielsson, a Russian speaker and the chief police negotiator, said the hijacker had repeated his demand to fly to the United States.

Four policemen approached the aircraft in a bus, and police in the control tower began negotiations by radio with the man. A telephone was later installed in the plane.

Estonia Defence Minister Hain Redas told reporters the hijacker was believed to be an ethnic Azerbaijani.

Stanley Olchovik of Fayetteville, North Carolina, said the hijacker freed him in Estonia because he was an American. Mr. Olchovik described the hijacker as extremely nervous, and said he

(Continued on page 5)

Sudanese peace talks begin today

NAIROBI (R) — Talks to end 10 years of civil war in southern Sudan were delayed by one day Saturday because the Sudanese government delegation failed to arrive in the Ugandan capital Kampala, Ugandan government officials said.

"The talks will definitely go ahead on Sunday. We expect the government team to arrive late this evening or early tomorrow morning," a government official told Reuters.

The officials, contacted by telephone from Nairobi, gave no reason why the delegation, to be led by Economic Planning Minister Ali Al Haj Mohammad, was late. Rebel leader John Garang arrived in Uganda Friday.

One official said Colonel Garang, leader of the main faction in the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), spent Saturday consulting with Ugandan government officials on the agenda for the talks.

Officials said Col. Garang was expected to give a news conference after Sunday's talks and a public lecture on the Sudanese problem at Makerere University

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Islamists insist 799 should be implemented

By Saad Silawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) Saturday demanded the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and condemned attempts to circumvent this resolution, which calls for the repatriation of Palestinians expelled by the Israeli authorities two months ago.

IAF Secretary General Ishaq Al Farhan, addressing press conference held in Amman Saturday, said:

"The IAF also denounces the passive attitude of the Arab states with regard to current attempts to tamper with Resolution 799 and the behind-the-scene moves to separate the expellee issue from the question of resuming the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations."

Dr. Farhan said the Arab countries should seek the immediate implementation of the resolution and ensure the return of the expelled Palestinians to their homeland.

A five-point plan by the president of the Security Council concerning Resolution 799 issued this month "is an attempt to abort the resolution and a flagrant violation of the international legitimacy," Dr. Farhan said.

"Indeed, circumventing the Security Council resolution is as a shameful retreat by the council and evidence of U.S. hegemony over the world organisation and a subjugation to Israel's arrogance," he noted.

Attacking what he termed a U.S.-Israeli deal, Dr. Farhan said Washington's backing of Israel's decision to return only 100 of the expellees was an attempt to "strip Resolution 799 of its content and pave the way" for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region to call for the resumption of the peace process.

Accusing Israel of employing the peace negotiations as a means to stall for time, Dr. Farhan said that the call for a resumption of peace negotiations "coincides with an escalation of Israeli atrocities in the Gaza Strip where people are being shot and killed and Palestinian homes demolished in an unprecedented manner."

On other issues, Dr Farhan voiced his party's determination to maintain dialogue with all other Jordanian political groups.

"We seek to cooperate on common denominators and will not defame personalities as we believe that the other parties also hold the national Arab and Islamic identity and place national interests above all other consid-

(Continued on page 5)

Clinton: U.S. will continue to enforce sanctions on Iraq

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States will sustain its policy of economic sanctions against Iraq because of Iraq's failure to comply fully with United Nations Security Council resolutions, including those calling for the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, President Bill Clinton has said in a report to Congress.

"The regime of Saddam Hussein continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to regional peace and security, (and) to the national security and the foreign policy of the United States," the president said in the report, which covered developments in Iraq from Aug. 2, 1992, to Feb. 1, 1993.

"The United States will therefore continue to apply economic sanctions to deter Iraq from threatening peace and stability in the region," Mr. Clinton said.

The United States began its sanctions regime against Iraq on Aug. 9, 1990, with an executive order by President George Bush which froze Iraqi assets in the United States and prohibited the movement of commerce between the two countries. The action aligned the sanctions imposed by the United States with United Nations Security Council Resolution 661 of Aug. 6, 1990.

"Investigation of possible violations of the Iraqi sanctions continue to be pursued and appropriate enforcement actions taken," Mr. Clinton reported.

Bill Clinton

Since the last report, he said, one case (Consarc Corporation v. the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals) filed against the government of Iraq has gone to judgment and into a subsequent appeal.

"The United States imposed economic sanctions on Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and illegal occupation of Kuwait, a clear act of brutal aggression," Mr. Clinton said in the report.

"The United States, together with the international community, is maintaining economic sanctions against Iraq because the Iraqi regime has failed to comply fully with United Nations resolutions including:

— Those calling for the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction;

— The inviolability of the Iraq-Kuwait boundary;

— The release of Kuwaiti and other third country nationals;

— Compensation for victims of Iraqi aggression;

— Long-term monitoring of weapons of mass destruction capabilities; and

— The return of Kuwaiti assets taken during its occupation of Kuwait.

The Saddam Hussein regime also continued to violate basic human rights by repressing the Iraqi civilian population and depriving it of humanitarian assistance, the president said.

"The United Nations Security Council passed resolutions that permit Iraq to sell $1.6 billion of oil under U.N. auspices to fund the provision of food, medicine, and other humanitarian supplies for the people of Iraq. ...The Iraqi regime continued to refuse to accept these resolutions and has thereby chosen to perpetuate the suffering of its civilian population," the report said.

"Because of Iraq's failure to comply fully with United Nations Security Council resolutions, the United States will therefore continue to apply economic sanctions to deter Iraq from threatening peace and stability in the region. ...The U.N. sanctions remain in place; the United States will continue to enforce those sanctions."

ANNOUNCEMENT

The embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Jordan / Military Attache's office

announces its need to fill the following vacancies at the Ministry of Defence in the Sultanate of Oman:

A. Director of a computer network, for coordinating plans and providing the requirements of the data system with the following qualifications:

(1) University graduate with a degree in computer science-communications with no less than 4 years experience in administration of computer data systems.

(2) Should have experience in designing the local system (LAN) and the distant system (WAN) employing NOVELL, ETHERENT, X25 and others.

(3) Should be familiar with the concept of system linkage, open systems, client server, and clustering and also to be familiar with communications systems like Pathworks, Crosstalk, Packetswitching and others.

(4) Should have experience in monitoring and streamlining the computer system.

(5) Should have ability to deal with the suppliers and coordinate the work between them, and the computer operators at the Ministry of Defence level.

B. Programme designer/programmer: Should have the following qualifications:

(1) University graduate in computer science or any related scientific field with experience between four and six years in the field of information technology.

(2) Should have knowledge in Cobol language within ACMS in using VAX DBMS and VAXTMS.

(3) Should be capable to deal with data dictionary CDD / PLUS in sustainable and development minner.

(4) Should have experience in VAX VMS preferably with knowledge of copy 5,0 or more.

(5) Full knowledge of constructional design and programming methods.

(6) Preference will be given to those with experience in the monitoring as well as Fortran and Pascal languages.

C. Computer Systems Analyst: with the following qualifications:

(1) University graduate preferably in computer science.

(2) Should be able to analyse and define major systems and design relevant programmes.

(3) Should supervise full combination and itegration of systems.

(4) Should have the knowledge of the latest computer developments and related systems.

(5) **Basic conditions:** SSADM (or any basic principles)

AA. SSADM or any main ideas for the system desk designing.

BB. Ability to communicate orally and written in English and computer language.

CC. Should have experience in the field of studies, designing and executive minner and major projects.

DD. Should have 8 to 10 years experience in the computer industry.

(6) **Additional requirements:**

Preference will go to those with experience in offering quotations, marketing and sales.

Only those qualified candidates can submit their application together with CV and copies of testimonials and certificates with a recent photo and must mention the telephone No. and full address within two weeks from this date addressed to P.O.Box 211945, Amman-Jordan. (Salaries and grade will be specified after selection).

An elderly Palestinian passes an Israeli soldier as he leaves a mosque after Friday prayers in occupied Jerusalem (AFP photo)

Europarliamentarians urged to force Israel to obey world law

THE COUNCIL for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) has written to all the British members of the European Parliament (MEP) urging them to warn Israel that its violations of international law will not be tolerated indefinitely, and calling for the European Community (EC) to impose trade sanctions to encourage the Israelis to pursue the Middle East peace talks with greater vigour.

After over six months in office, said the letter, the government of Yitzhak Rabin had "failed to take the necessary confidence-building measures in the (occupied territories) to create the right atmosphere for peace negotiations and to rally popular Palestinian support behind the Palestine negotiators."

Mr. Rabin's policies had been "80 per cent stick and 20 per cent carrot" and had included "the worst policies of suppression from his days as defence minister at the beginning of the intifada."

This, together with the stalemate in the peace talks, meant that "popular support for negotiations has been falling and people, especially the young, have turned towards Hamas." Mr. Rabin's decision to expel the 400 Palestinians to Lebanon in December had been "but the most recent of a sorry series of mistakes and lost opportunities" for which he had been responsible since coming to power.

The expulsions had sparked an upsurge of demonstrations in the occupied territories and Israeli security forces had sought to suppress these with their customary violence, CAABU Director Bernard Mills noted.

Accompanying his letter was a U.N.-collated list of casualties amongst children aged up to 15 in the Gaza Strip in the period from December 1992 to Jan. 17, 1993. Nine children had been killed and 149 had been wounded. In the subsequent 10 days, said Mr. Mills, "at least another seven children have been killed and a further 90 wounded by live ammunition."

The CAABU director's letter, dated Jan. 28, continued: "The protracted suffering of the deportees in no-man's land in South Lebanon is terrible enough but the continued carnage inflicted on children by the Israelis in the occupied territories cannot be tolerated. Only rapid and decisive action by the Security Council to enforce compliance with Resolution 799 (requiring Israel to rescind the deportations) or sanctions imposed by the European Community, will bring this sorry episode to an end — *CAABU bulletin.*

Amnesty reports human rights abuses in Sudan

LONDON (AP) — Authorities in Sudan continue to commit gross human rights violations, including mass killings of tribal enemies, Amnesty International said Friday.

The human rights organisation issued a report saying there were "especially disturbing reports" of mass killings in the remote Nuba mountains, where the government is engaged in military action against the Nuba people.

No-one was immediately available for comment at the Sudan embassy.

Amnesty International said there were reports that hundreds of civilians were extrajudicially executed in the Nuba mountains as recently as late December and early January.

"The exact scale of these killings is not yet confirmed, but Amnesty International knows of scores of other extrajudicial executions in the Nuba mountains in the past year, and tens of thousands of Nuba have been deliberately displaced in assaults on their villages by government forces."

It added that in the remote war zones of southern and western Sudan, "where the government apparently feels free from international scrutiny, the authorities are flagrant in their disregard for human rights."

The report said hundreds of people were reportedly extrajudicially executed in Juba in mid-1992 "as government forces 'mopped up' after incursions by the armed opposition Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)."

The authorities have not accounted for over 100 men arrested in Juba around the same time, it said. The men have since disappeared.

Amnesty International added that in the major cities of northern Sudan, which was more open to international scrutiny, "the government appears to be trying to make repression less visible rather than actually ending it."

"But there is a continuing pattern of detention without charge or trial of government critics."

Amnesty International said it had the names of 250 political detainees who have been held without charge in the capital, Khartoum, alone in the past year.

On Jan. 28, it said, Mohammad Abdul Sid, the Khartoum correspondent of the international Arabic-language daily Al Asharq Al Awsat, was arrested and the newspaper's offices were closed.

Amnesty International added that the Sudan People's Liberation Army also was responsible for abuses.

"In January 1992, forces loyal to the SPLA deliberately and arbitrarily killed 87 civilians at Pagarau in Dahr Al Ghazal state. In September 1992, SPLA forces murdered three foreign aid workers and a journalist."

Morocco to resume dialogue

An official Moroccan human rights organisation has decided to resume contacts with Amnesty International which published reports last year alleging abuses in Morocco.

In a memorandum published Friday, the consultative council for human rights appointed by King Hassan said it would resume dialogue with Amnesty to "clarify the situation in the hope that it (Amnesty) will be more objective and honest."

Turkish police accused of murders

GENEVA (R) — An international watchdog group Reporters Without Frontiers (RSF), said Friday it believed Turkish police were implicated in the murders of at least four Kurdish journalists last year.

In an inquiry into the killings of 13 journalists in Turkey in 1992, the Paris-based group also said there were "elements which could support certain suspicions" of official complicity in seven other cases.

The report, entitled "Intimidation," was released a day after a Kurdish reporter was killed in southeastern town of Sanliurfa, the second such killing this year. All but one of the journalists killed in the last 12 months were Kurds.

It said the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) was believed to have killed two of the 13 reporters.

The killers of four others had yet to be identified, but the report said the police were directly or indirectly implicated.

"We are convinced that there was at least the complicity, if not the participation, of the armed forces," it said.

In a right-of-reply statement issued with the report, the Turkish embassy in Switzerland said the RSF had set out to prove the complicity of security forces. It said the accusations of complicity were not based on substantiated evidence but on biased testimonies.

Israel continues settlement building despite pledge

ISRAEL'S ILLEGAL colonisation of the occupied West Bank is continuing, despite a government pledge to halt construction in exchange for $10 billion worth of U.S. loan guarantees, according to the Peace Now Movement.

"The Peace Now settlement watch committee has found some new construction sites in several locations in the West Bank," said a statement from the organisation. "This is a blatant violation of the government's own commitment to block further development beyond 11,000 housing units."

When the government of Yitzhak Rabin came to power last July it froze the construction of 6,000 new units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In exchange, Washington unblocked the loan guarantees which had been frozen pending an end to Israeli colonisation. At the same time, however, the Rabin government allowed the completion of 13,567 homes in the occupied territories.

Peace Now, which only monitors settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said that 36 new apartments had recently been built in the settlement of Itamar, near Hebron, and that preparations were being made for the construction of over 60 apartments in Na'ale, near Ramallah, and Telem, near Hebron. Peace Now also accused the government of building new roads across Palestinian territories.

"Continuation of construction at this time is an obstacle to the peace talks in Washington and raises tension and violence in the territories," said the statement.

An Israeli housing ministry spokesman firmly denied the Peace Now claim. "It is simply not true," he said. "There is no widening, nothing over what the government has said." — *The Council for the Advancement of Arab-British understanding.*

Swedish court jails Russians who smuggled Iraqi refugees

STOCKHOLM (R) — A Swedish court jailed four Russian-speaking men Friday for endangering the lives of nearly 400 Iraqi refugees they smuggled into Sweden in a freighter from Latvia.

The district court in Gotland, the Baltic Sea island where the 391 seasick refugees stumbled ashore last month, handed out one-year jail terms to the captain and first mate, and jailed the two other crewmen for eight months each.

All four men, who had been living in Latvia and had no passports, were also barred from Sweden until 1998, court official Inga Johnsson told Reuters.

The court convicted the Latvian freighter Priekule's crew on charges of putting other peoples' lives in danger and of breaking immigration laws by bringing asylum-seekers to Sweden by an unauthorised route.

It was the toughest sentence so far in a series of cases of asylum-seekers from the Middle East landing illegally on Sweden's eastern shores, leading to calls for both stiffer penalties and tighter rules on asylum.

Swedish authorities say there is evidence that a Russian mafia is behind the trafficking, following reports by some of the asylum-seekers that they paid $2,500 for the one-way journey from Moscow to Scandinavia.

The Priekule sailed to the island of Gotland, half-way between mainland Sweden and the Baltic countries, from the Latvian capital of Riga on Jan. 20.

The 391 refugees on board, mostly Iraqi Kurds, were packed into two small, unsanitary freight holds during the seven-day voyage across the stormy Baltic Sea.

Swedish officials on Gotland said each refugee had only about half a square metre of space on the boat, which carried no safety equipment and little food or medicine.

The defendants, who in line with Swedish court procedure were not identified, said when the trial opened last week and that about 50 Iraqis had threatened them at knifepoint not to turn back to Riga.

The charge of endangering human life is rarely used because of the difficulty of producing evidence. Until Friday, the stiffest sentence handed down to a crew member bringing in boat refugees had been four months' imprisonment.

"This is an unusual sentence," Gosta Svensson, head of Visby police's criminal section, told Reuters. "Refugee smugglers are going to be more careful now because of the stricter judgement."

The Gotland court will rule separately on whether or not to return the rusting freighter to the Captain and crew after they complete their sentences. In the past, boats have been returned.

Turkish tunnel-break jail ignored escape warnings

ANKARA (R) — Eighteeen Kurdish and extreme-left militants tunnelled their way out of a maximum security jail after prison authorities ignored repeated warnings of possible escape plots.

Embarrassed Turkish officials, under pressure to improve a creaking prison system, ordered a full-scale probe after the convicts fled nevsehir jail through a 30-metre tunnel Tuesday.

Six of the escapees, including Dev-Sol Urban guerrilla group mastermind Mursel Goleli, were facing death sentences.

"This is negligence," Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel fumed Thursday. "Suspects are captured, they are convicted and then they flee."

Justice Minister Seyfi Oktay suspended the chief warder and 14 other officials at the jail in central Turkey.

"The Nevsehir prison officials have been persistently warned of a possible escape attempt," he said. But he was unable to explain why the warnings — the last a week before the jailbreak — went unheeded.

Mr. Demirel said: "On paper everything has been done but in reality, nothing."

"The prisons are an open wound. There is something wrong with the system," Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin told reporters after learning that senior leaders of Dev-Sol (revolutionary left) and the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were among those who fled.

Marxist Dev-Sol has been waging violence in Turkey since the 1970s. It has claimed responsibility for scores of killings and bombings since 1987 — when it regrouped after a jailbreak by several of its leaders.

A separatist fight waged by the PKK for Kurdish independence is Turkey's biggest security headache. More than 5,400 people have been killed since 1984.

Newspapers said Nevsehir inmates barricaded themselves in after the escape and prevented a security search for a day.

"No-one in his right mind can call them prisons. They would be better called schools of terrorism," wrote columnist Gungor Mengi in the mass-circulation Sabah newspaper.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 ..... Revez d'enfants
17:40 ..... Les Clés de Fort Boyard
19:00 ..... News French
19:15 ..... Le Journal de L'histoire
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Who's the Boss
21:10 ..... Documentary
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 ..... Law and Order

PRAYER TIMES

04:52 ..... Fajr
06:09 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
11:49 ..... Dhuhr
15:00 ..... 'Asr
17:30 ..... Maghreb
18:47 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swcifich Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	3 / 13
Aqaba	10 / 22
Deserts	2 / 15
Jordan Valley	8 / 20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhles Halasa 819220
Dr. Jameel Murtaja 776149
Dr. Farouq Noor 786680
Dr. Salah Al Ussoud 649028
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Ascma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847623
Fifth circle pharmacy 813141
Samir pharmacy 661898
Talal pharmacy 621366
Ya'ish pharmacy 624425
Al Atas' pharmacy 777712
Al Azzouni pharmacy 888681
Hisham pharmacy 771957

IRBID:
Dr. Abdul Majeed Musa 275393
Alqudsi pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi 989601
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm 644281/6
Akilek Maternity, J. Amm 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Muhtas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mutasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
09:25 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
09:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)
17:30 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:55 ..... London (RJ)
18:00 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:30 ..... Athens (RJ)
19:25 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)
20:10 ..... Rome (RJ)
20:30 ..... Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 ..... Cairo (GF)
12:30 ..... Bahrain (GF)
14:30 ..... Moscow (SU)
16:55 ..... Larnaca (CY)
19:50 ..... Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)
09:15 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00 ..... Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
11:00 ..... Rome (RJ)
11:30 ..... Vienna (RJ)
11:30 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00 ..... Athens (RJ)
20:00 ..... Riyadh (RJ)
20:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 ..... Damascus (RJ)
21:15 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
21:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
22:00 ..... Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:15 ..... Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:50 ..... Beirut, Rome (AZ)
10:25 ..... Cairo (MS)
13:15 ..... Doha, Muscat (GF)
16:05 ..... Moscow (SU)
17:45 ..... Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/500
Banana	700/700
Banana (Mohammar)	640/640
Beans	1200/900
Cabbage	100/500
Carrot	180/120
Cauliflower	80/50
Cucumbers (large)	200/150
Cucumbers (small)	400/300
Eggplant	320/200
Garlic	800/400
Grapefruit	200/150
Lemon	450/360
Marrow (large)	300/200
Marrow (small)	600/500
Mint	120
Onion (dry)	210/180
Onion (green)	250/190
Orange	400/180
Pepper (hot)	600/500
Pepper (sweet)	620/520
Potato	250/170
Tomato	160/90
Spinach	140/90

هكذا من الأصل

Freedom Party outlines aims

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Freedom Party on Saturday held its first press conference after receiving its license from the government to discuss its aims and ideology.

The FP was founded by 28 members in 1987 under the name of the Jordanian Progressive Party. When it applied for licensing, in 1992, it changed its name to the Freedom Party to avoid any confusion between it and the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party.

Freedom Party Secretary General Fawaz Al-Zoubi reaffirmed his party's support for the Constitution and the National Charter. He described the party as a "democratic; patriotic; progressive; politically, economically and organisational by independent Jordanian party."

Mr. Al-Zoubi said the FP's political agenda focuses primarily on Jordanian politics, taking into consideration its relationship with the Arab countries and with the world as a whole. He added that the party recognises the special relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and said this is reflected in their programme.

Mr. Al-Zoubi said the goals of the FP are to protect Jordan from any form of intervention and to ensure its political and social independence. The FP supports the democratization process in Jordan and calls for strengthening the roots of democracy in the Jordanian society, he maintained.

Mr. Al-Zoubi stated that the FP aims to achieve social justice by seeking to develop the Jordanian economy to ensure prosperity and a high standard of living.

In addition, Mr. Al-Zoubi said, the FP hopes to narrow the gap between different classes in Jordan.

The FP believes that the political agenda should be given preference over the ideology of the party in order to attain national unity. The party has no specific ideology.

It believes in progress, change and improvement, Mr. Al-Zoubi said. He explained that the FP bases its ideas on scientific and humane ideas, some of which come from the Arab and Islamic culture and history.

Mr. Al-Zoubi said the party refuses categorizing parties as left, right or center because this is an obstacle in the face of unity which Jordan is in need of now more than any other time.

One main problem faced by the FP is the lack of funding, Mr. Al Zoubi mentioned. He said the FP has suggested that the government provide the political parties with low interest loans in order for the parties to "stand on their feet."

Still, the government has not responded he said.

Art diagnoses man's ill state

By Stephanie Genkin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the eye of Halim Nehaya, an Iraqi artist, the last decade is marked by a gloomy and degenerate state of man. His works depict this picture with imagination, talent and a strong expression of dissatisfaction.

His collection of ceramic works, currently on display at the French Cultural Centre, offers a critique of power and its effects on humanity.

Mr. Nehaya primarily focuses on what he considers to be the contemporary human condition. His work is largely a diagnosis of the ill state of man.

Through his artistic talents, developed during five years of study at the Fine Arts Institute in Baghdad, Mr. Nehaya portrays a world where people have virtually become blind to reality. His collection is not only an expression of his contemplation of man's predicament; it is also an attempt to warn those willing to consider his message.

Deception is conveyed by images, which the viewer knows full well is impossible. A pair of ceramic fish, for example, dangle down from a string fastened to a metal stand as if flying through the air. Each fish bears a design of superstition symbols, a distinguishing feature of contemporary Iraqi artists.

The artist, however, explains that this piece is more than an attempt to make the viewer realise that human beings are subsisting on illusions. Mr. Nehaya chose the fish in this work to convey hopes and dreams of the people suffering back home.

"Fish are precious in Iraq. Poor people cannot afford fish," Mr. Nehaya explained.

While Mr. Nehaya is critical of the inclinations of man, at times portrayed as animals, he maintains the complete opposite view of women. In his art, women are portrayed as honest and warm, uncorrupted by the power of man. Many of the ceramic works suggest that one day women might be left no choice but to abandon man for his ruthlessness.

If the artist is rebelling against the oppression inflicted by man, he is at the same time celebrating the natural law of the animal kingdom.

His faith in natural law is exemplified in a metal and ceramic work entitled "Space Garden". In this piece, Mr. Nehaya creates an environment he believes to be ideal.

Also featured at the exhibition is a series of human figures adorned by multiple hearts. According to the artist, the message is prescriptive.

Although dominated by the harsh appraisal of man and corruption, the collection does include some signs of hope for the future.

The exhibiton will be on display at the French Cultural Centre until Feb. 22, 1993.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma meets with charity committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday received at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) the Jordanian Charity Committee which supports the fund's programmes. At the meeting, Princess Basma and committee members agreed to set up sub-committees to raise funds for various charity programmes.

Prince Faisal, Princess Alia to attend AYF conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal Sunday will attend the second General Conference of the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). The conference will discuss the AYF's financial and administrative reports for 1992 and a proposal on amending several of the forum's bylaws.

Mrs. Christopher visits NHF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mary Christopher, wife of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Saturday visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and was briefed on its development programmes and projects. Mrs. Christopher was received by NHF President Ina'm Mufti who noted the role of NHF in supplementing national development efforts in the Kingdom.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m.- 6 p.m.)

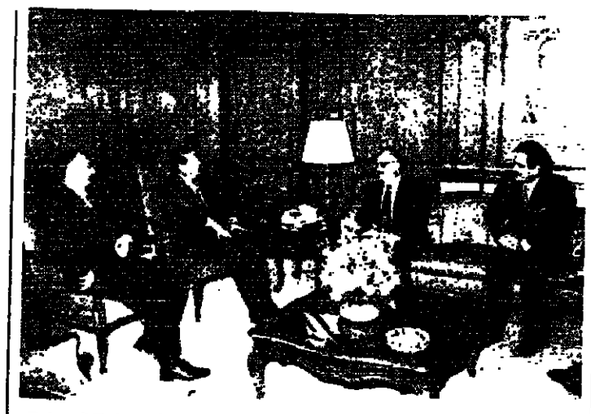
Exhibition of Romanian textile machineries at the Jordanian Textiles Company in Marka.

Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Mohammad Fakher at Baladna Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Mohammad Fradi and Saber Mijbel at Alia Art Gallery.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Video of a musical entitled "The Music Man" at the American Centre — 5 p.m.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker meets with Iraqi Minister of Education Hikmat Bazzaz (second from right), Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ismail Nouri Al Weiss (right) Saturday (Petra photo)

Premier examines educational systems with Iraqi minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday said he was eager to see Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in education bolstered at every level.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with a visiting Iraqi delegation led by Iraqi Minister of Education Hikmat Bazzaz, the Prime Minister said enhanced cooperation in the educational process would benefit both countries.

Mr. Bazzaz expressed his admiration for the Jordanian educational system and its plans for development and modernisation.

Together with his Jordanian counterpart, Mr. Thouqan Al Hindawi, the Iraqi minister briefed Sharif Zeid on the outcome of their talks over the past few days.

Mr. Bazzaz earlier Saturday met Minister of Higher Education Awad Khleifat to review cooperation between higher education institutions in Jordan and Iraq. The two ministers discussed current expansions in higher education at the community college and university levels in both countries, in the light of the growing number of high school graduates.

The two sides said they were determined to pursue efforts to cooperate further in higher education and scientific research, as well as exchange expertise.

Mr. Bazzaz, the Iraqi delegation, and Jordanian officials, visited the port of Aqaba and toured a number of institutions and a school scout camp.

The tour also included the Marine Science Station, social community centres and tourist facilities.

The Iraqi minister outlined the development of Iraq's educational system noting that there are no private schools or universities in the country.

He also said his ministry was determined to eradicate illiteracy in Iraq by making education compulsory and by expanding vocational training centres.

Mr. Bazzaz later met with Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra to review cultural relations.

Jordan signs regional pact to protect plant life

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has joined 16 other Near East and North African countries in signing an agreement to create a regional organisation to protect plant life. Minister of Agriculture Fayez Al Khasawneh signed the agreement in Rabat, where he attended a three-day meeting of the participating countries.

The agreement is designed to help the region deal more efficiently and safely with protecting agricultural produce from pests and will coordinate crop production activities among the countries of the region, Dr. Khasawneh said Saturday in an arrival statement in Amman.

The agreement provides for coordinating joint campaigns against pests, encouraging participating countries to exchange expertise and information in crop protection and will supervise the application of health related measures, the minister added.

Signatories to the agreement are Jordan, Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen.

Convicted murderer hangs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 29-year-old, convicted of murder in February 1992 was hanged at dawn Saturday.

Mohammad Ibrahim Mohammad was sentenced to death after being found guilty by the criminal court of murdering a 90-year-old woman who lived alone in Amman.

In announcing the execution, an official of the Public Security Department (PSD) said Mr. Mohammad used to frequent the victim's home run errands for her, drink tea with her, and keep her company.

According to the PSD, on the day of the murder Mr. Mohammad arrived at the victim's home at 7.00 p.m. The woman offered him a cup of tea, and later the man tried to rape her, the PSD official said.

Mr. Mohammad used a large wooden pole placed near the fireplace to beat the woman on the head, instantly killing her.

Top awards for Jordan distributor

Jordan distributor for Kodak Diagnostic Imaging Products, Murad Technical and Trading Establishment, won two top awards at the Annual Kodak Conference held in Dubai recently.

Coming ahead of fourteen regional distributors, Murad Technical and Trading Establishment scooped an award for Marketing Excellence and a Target Breaker award in the Diagnostic Imaging product category.

Wajih Murad, general manager of Murad Technical and Trading Establishment, was in Dubai to collect the awards and is pictured, right, with Andre Nahas, general manager, Kodak (Near East) Inc..

Split threatens Al Mustakbal Party after executive committee elections

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Al Mustakbal Party (party of the future) elected a 21-member executive committee this weekend and nearly became the first political party to face an internal rupture when one of its leading members threatened to quit and form a new party.

Headed by Ma'an Lower House Deputy Suleiman Arar, the Al Mustakbal Party faced a possible break-up when one of its leading members, Youssef Al Ghazzal, threatened to resign after members elected what he considered was an "unsatisfactory" executive committee Friday evening.

The elections, say some members of Al Mustakbal, came "too early."

"The members of Al Mustakbal don't know each other very well, its a conglomeration of three parties and it takes time for people to get to know each other and leave their old party cocoons; thus these elections represent the followers of one of the three parties more than the other two," said a member of Al Mustakbal on condition of anonymity.

Members, say Al Mustakbal insiders, voted according to "old party lines."

Mr. Ghazzal, who was one of the 21 members elected to the committee, threatened to resign after the election results clearly indicated that the members of the old Mustakbal Party, one of the three to merge into the new Mustakbal Party, had won 18 of the 21 seats. "He said he was resigning, but we will change his mind," said one of the newly-elected members Saturday.

The split, say party members, would constitute a weakening of the party, which is one of half a dozen centrist parties that emerged during the legalisation of political parties.

Mr. Ghazzal was the nominal head of the Arab Revisionist Party, one of the three political parties to merge and become the Al Mustakbal last summer in the midst of preparations for the October 1992 legalisation of political parties in Jordan.

Al Mustakbal, a conservative centrist party, was one of the first five parties in the Kingdom to be legalised last fall.

Political observers have said that the increasing number of leftist and centrist parties will split the vote of those opposed to the Islamist politics currently practised by the Islamic Action Front.

The Front is the only Islamist party which has applied for and received political party status to date; it is expected to receive all the votes won by the Muslim Brotherhood movement in the 1989 legislative elections.

A further polarization of centrists or leftists, is seen by political observers as strengthening the Islamists.

Meanwhile a sixth centrist party won legal status as the week closed. The United Arab Democratic Party, headed by Anis Muasher, was legalised by the Ministry of Interior.

The party, like Al Mustakbal, is a centrist party which was formed when three smaller centrist groups merged. It will not hold executive committee elections for another three months, organisers said Saturday.

"Right now we have one large executive committee formed by the three executive committees of the former parties," said Mr. Muasher. "When the members get to know each other a little bit better, then we will have elections of the larger executive committee," added Mr. Muasher whose party became the fifteenth political party to be legalised in the Kingdom.

The members of the executive committee of the Al Mustakbal are: Suleiman Arar, Assad Masri, Salah Sharab, Khalaf Haddadin, Yassin Maharmeh, Fawzi Samhouri, Yanal Bustami, Nabil Saade, Mohammad Tarawneh, Fakhri Bilbeisi, Talal Al Ghazawi, Abdul Kareem Abu Haijah, Samir Khirfan, Hashem Abu Hassan, Hamad Abu Gamous, Zuhair Abu Lughoud, Mustapha Issawi, Nazih Al Muzaig, Abdul Salam Freihat and Youssef Ghazal.

Jordan, Bulgaria discuss trade adjustments

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Buglaria Saturday opened talks in Amman designed to adjust the balance of trade which is currently in favour of Bulgaria.

Bulgaria imports 60,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphates annually and Jordan seeks to raise the quantity to 150,000 tonnes, according to officials at the Ministry of Supply.

They said Jordan imports a variety of Bulgarian products worth JD 16 million annually, and most of these are sold through the Jordanian military and civil service consumer corporations.

Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf headed the Jordanian side to the talks with the Bulgarian team led by Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister Valentine Karbachev who arrived Friday on a five-day visit to the Kingdom.

The two teams reviewed ways of increasing the volume of goods between the two countries and adjusting the balance of trade, according to a statement issued following the talks.

Mr. Saqqaf urged the Bulgarian side to maintain the flow of fresh Bulgarian meat to Jordanian markets, especially during the Holy Month of Ramadan due to start Tuesday.

He promised that Jordan will continue to provide its consumer corporations with Bulgarian products.

Mr. Karbachev promised that his government will do its utmost to overcome obstacles impeding the flow of trade and will orient the Bulgarian public on Jordanian products to help market them in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian side asked that the joint Jordanian-Bulgarian Economic Committee hold its meeting in three months when Jordan will be participating in a trade fair in Sofia.

Following the talks the Bulgarian official and Mr. Saqqaf called on Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and briefed him on the progress of talks and the work of the joint committee.

Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf and Jordanian officials Saturday meet with Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Valentine Karbachev and an accompanying delegation to discuss adjustments to the balance of trade between the two countries (Petra photo)

Jordan Times

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Visit that may work

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's talks yesterday with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher focused not only on the need to reenergise the Arab-Israeli peace talks but also on ways and means to put the traditionally strong U.S.-Jordanian relations back on track. This much was clear from their joint press conference held at the conclusion of Mr. Christopher's visit to the country on Friday and Saturday.

While highlighting the issues of peace in the region took no-one by surprise, recognising and applauding Jordan's accelerated democratic process added a new dimension to the joint agenda of the two countries. In underlining parliamentary democracy in the Kingdom as a theme for his talks with the Jordanian leadership, Mr. Christopher was most probably sending a clear signal to the other states in the region which are yet to recognise the accomplishment by either word or deed.

The fact that the new U.S. administration has acknowleged Jordan's pioneering role does not mean that we should ask it for reward or compensation, as the King clearly stated yesterday. But it would seem proper for world democracies to lend support to the Jordanian initiative and hope that will happen in due course.

On the subject of peace in the Middle East, there was obviously a meeting of the minds between the two sides on the need for holding the next round of peace negotiations before long. The alternative to maintaining the momentum of the bilateral and multilateral peace talks, as His Majesty cautioned, could be very ominous in the sense that the entire Middle East region could plunge into a fresh cycle of extremism and violence. We cannot agree more with this assessment and thus have to call on Washington to show a more profound understanding of the looming dangers that would result from deadlock.

The fact there was also a convergence of views on the necessity of finding a workable solution to the dispute over the fate of the Palestinian expellees, now in their 65th day in exile, is comforting, even reassuring. Both sides acknowledged that this issue poses a major obstacle that requires early rectification. This call for speedy resolution of the expellee crisis comes amidst reports that Mr. Christopher is setting the stage for calling on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to accelerate their repatriation by invoking the judicial review mechanism in a more judicious manner.

But this is far from being enough to put the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations back on track. For starters, the role of the PLO in the next rounds of talks requires fresh and bold redress. The hypocrisy that still smothers this aspect of the peace equation is unacceptable. True, the Israeli government has inched closer to accepting the PLO as a full-fledged peace partner when the Knesset repealed the 1986 law that forbade contacts with the Palestinian organisation. But the Americans can take us further towards progress by effectively ending their unjustified boycott of the PLO and involving the legitimate Palestinian leadership in all efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement.

In any case, the outcome of the U.S. Secretary of State's visit to Jordan and elsewhere in the region cannot be properly guaged till he concludes his visits to the other countries. Most probably Mr. Christopher will not go back to Washington emptyhanded if only he succeeds to persuade the Israelis that the expulsion problem has to be solved to the satisfaction of the Palestinians themselves.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WARREN CHRISTOPHER'S visit to Jordan offers the U.S. secretary a real chance to learn about Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict and the demands that should be met by Israel for peace to be established in the region, said **Al Ra'i** daily Saturday. Jordan is stressing to the new United States administration that it is peace oriented and desires stability in the region so that all countries can live in security. It goes without saying that Israel's military superiority can only achieve a temporary truce, but does not hold the requirements of real peace, and that the Israeli rejectionist stand can only breed violence and invite more hostilities in the Middle East region, said the daily. The paper said Jordan shares with Washington its apprehensions about delays or disruptions of the peace process because Jordan is keen on arriving at a just peace and is careful not to allow extremist elements on both sides to be successful in their drive to inflame the region. Should the peace process become derailed, especially due to Israel's negative stands, both the Arabs and the Israelis will be the losers, it added.

Al Dustour daily welcomed Mr. Christopher's visit to Jordan and said that the United States should play the role of full partner in the peace-making process. Mr. Christopher is on record as saying that Washington wants to play full role in the negotiations and that the U.S. president is totally committed to pursuing the peace process until it achieves its objectives, said the daily. This is a welcome commitment on the part of the United States and the Arab parties look forward towards a meaningful role by Washington to achieve the aspired peace, said the daily. But, the paper said, a genuine and lasting peace can be by no means hinged on a biased stand or a double standard policy on the part of the world community and the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Christopher ought to realise that the Arabs are paving the ground for real peace but that the Israelis are continually obstructing all moves in this direction.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Foreign aid to Jordan — what price?

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Very little was made public about the meeting of the consultative group that was in Paris on Jan. 28, 1993, to consider financial aid to Jordan and make commitments to finance the expected gap in the country's balance of payments for 1993 and 1994. All the Jordanians were told so far is that the meeting was very successful, the participants were impressed by Jordan's economic performance and decided to give Jordan $380 million in 1993 and a similar amount in 1994.

The consultative group included representatives of the governments of the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany and other industrial countries. The European Community (EC) the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank and the International Monitary Fund (IMF) were also there. The meeting was sponsored and organised by the World Bank and the IMF.

An observer need not be a genius to realise that these additional commitments to aid Jordan were conditional. The actual payment will not take place unless and until Jordan takes certain economic measures and satisfies certain conditions set by the donors. Funds, nowadays, are not given away simply because a country like Jordan needs them. There are many nations in this world which are starving for cash, but the need is not the only criteria for giving.

On the other hand, all the industrial countries which attended the consultative group's meeting in Paris told the Jordanian government, in no ambiguous words, that they do not have the intention or the desire to replace the Arab Gulf oil-exporting states in supplying funds to Jordan in the form of simple telegraphic transfers with no strings attached. The industrial countries and the international institutions were ready to help Jordan provided it is ready and willing to help itself, behave in a certain manner and abide by certain conditions regarding water, energy, agriculture, sectoral reform, population policy, etc.

As an economist, I have no problem with the economic policies that the donors would like to see Jordan adopting, because they are, in my opinion, in our own best interest. After all, the policies and conditions make sense. In fact, Jordan should have volunteered to implement the reforms and satisfy the conditions out of prudence and sound economic policy. However, the Jordanian people are *entitled to know all the facts and should be told about* these conditions. They should know that there is a price which must be paid in order for us to earn the promised aid, whether in the form of grants or soft loans.

Last year, the government raised the prices of some petroleum products on the very day the Paris Club was scheduled to meet, Feb. 28, 1992. This step cost the consumer some JD 30 million a year. The consumer should be informed that the timing was not a coincidence. Had it not been for the fuel price rise, the Paris Club would not have agreed to reschedule all our debts that were either overdue or were due within the next 18 months, that is until June, 30, 1993.

The government also took the difficult decision, on Jan. 28, 1993 to raise the price of bread by 10 fils per kilogramme, which cost the consumer JD5.6 million, on the very day the consultative group was to meet in Paris. Again, the consumer should have been told that the timing was not a mere coincidence. Had it not been for the reduction of the bread subsidy, the consultative group would not have agreed to give Jordan $380 million a year for two years.

The *Paris adjustments* of fuel and bread are not the only conditions demanded by our creditors and donors. The concessions on debts and the fresh funds flowing to Jordan have more conditions attached to them. Perhaps our officials should reveal *all the agreed conditions* to the public and try, at the same time, to convince the people that it is in the nation's best interest in the longer run to do what we should do and reap the direct and indirect benefits that come with it. It is of course meaningful to remove the distortions from our economy and receive the financial rewards that go with it.

One last point: as long as the government is convinced and has made the commitment to do something, it should be done as early as is practical. It is not wise to postpone action until the very last day.

U.S.-Israeli deal on expellees is illegal, unethical and inhumane

By Pascal B. Karmy

THE deal between the U.S. and Israel for the return of some Palestinian expellees and shortened exile terms for the rest is illegal, unethical and evinces lack of human feelings. Moreover, the deal proves once more the double-standard police adopted by the U.S. in its dealings with *Arabs and Israel.*

The deal is illegal because Paragraph 1 of Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 expressly provides: "Individual or mass forcible transfer as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the occupying power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited regardless of their motive." Moreover, Paragraph 4 of Article *1 of the Geneva Protocol of 1977* on occupied territories clearly applies to the situation prevailing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as to the protection of civilians under occupation. Even more, Article 50 of the Hague Regulations and Article 33 of the Geneva Convention prohibit collective *punishment* as in this case.

The deal on the Palestinian expellees was unethical as it was concluded behind the back of the Security Council members and particularly of the Palestinians and Arabs who are the people most concerned in the matter and should have been consulted in the first place. It is well-known that generally, states' policies do not abide by the principles of ethics or morality as, according to Machiavelli, "in statecraft the end justifies the means."

But considering that the U.S. is the sole great power after the collapse of the Soviet Union, considering that, as Kenneth Stein professor of Near Eastern History at Emory University says, "the U.S. is the key beacon for democracy and democratic values, it has a moral commitment to encourage these values in its foreign policy," and considering that the U.S. cherishes the spread of these values, it seems to me that it was indeed unbecoming of it to circumvent Resolution 799 and not to uphold the rule of *law and justice enshrined in international* laws and international conventions, some of which are referred to above, as well as in U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 of Dec. 18, 1992. The latter explicitly resolved the immediate and safe return of all the expellees to their homes. Neither the U.S. nor Israel can circumvent this unambiguous resolution as one basic principle of law enunciates that "there can be no *room for interpretation of the law* where the text is clear."

Thus, it is mere sophistry or quibbling to allege that Israel's offer for the return of only 101 expellees and the rest within shorter periods was consistent with Security Council Resolution 799. The resolution expressly and clearly provides for the *immediate and safe return* of the expellees and not partial or gradual return. Thus, the U.S. had one of two options: either to insist on the full implementation of the resolution or to ask the Security Council to impose sanctions against Israel for its non-compliance with the resolution.

The expellees are living in appalling conditions, under rain and snow, stranded in a hostile area. Their plight calls for their immediate repatriation and there can be no dilly-dallying with human beings in such conditions. It is appropriate to remember that the U.S. roused the whole world when American embassy staff in Tehran were unjustly taken hostages in 1980 by the Iranians, although the situation of the American hostages was benign in comparison to that of the expellees.

The deal with Israel may implicitly mean that the U.S. accepts the expulsion of Palestinians although, in principle only, it is against it. What stunning is the *fact that Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, the* Israeli prime minister, stated in the Knesset that Israel retained the right under the U.S.-brokered offer to expel hundreds of more Palestinians. If this is true, it will encourage Israel in the future to dump Palestinians in any place it wishes. Such action on Israel's part will not only be illegal, as explained above, but it will constitute an aggression on the country in which Palestinians may be dumped, as indeed the dumping of Palestinians over Lebanon is an aggression on Lebanese territory and its integrity.

Mr. Rabin's statement that he has acted against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, as being extremist Muslim fundamentalist groups, *just as Egypt and Algeria* are combating the same groups, is a specious and fallacious argument. Egypt and Algeria enjoy lawful and legitimate governments whose main functions are to establish order and the rule of law in their own states and to protect their own citizens. They are not foreign occupying powers dealing with foreign inhabitants. Israel, on the other hand, is a foreign occupying power subjugating people who are not its citizens on territory that is not its. Consequently, Isreal is under obligation to conform its conduct with the relevant international human rights law and international conventions applicable to the occupying power, to occupied territories and to their inhabitants.

Moreover, although we may agree or disagree with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad's religious doctrine and principles, and although we may not agree with them as to their opposition to the peace process, these two groups or organisations are resisting Israeli *occupation side by side with other* organisations, all of whom have the full right under international law to resist the occupier.

Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory is similar to the appalling Nazi occupation of Europe during World War II. Scores of young men are being killed or injured by the brutal Israeli army. Suffice it to mention the undercover death squads, brutal handling of people during demonstrations, torture rooms in prisons or during investigation of so-called suspects and the wanton destruction of houses leaving their owners homeless.

The intifada is a means of resisting occupation. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, (some of whose members were expelled) are fighting occupation under the banner of the intifada which embraces all resistance forces in the occupied territories. *Palestinians have no alternative* at present but to defend their very existence and their national identity. The right of occupied people to resist the occupier conforms with the Hague Regulations 1907 as complemented by the 3rd and 4th Conventions of 1949. Moreover, General Assem*bly Resolution 3070 of Nov. 30, 1973,* reaffirmed the inalienable right to self-determination of all peoples under alien subjugation and "*also reaffirms the legitimacy* of peoples' struggle for liberation from alien subjugation by all means including armed struggle." And General Assembly Resolution 3236 of Nov. 22, 1974, "further recognises the right of the Palestinian people to regain its rights by all means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the *Charter* of the United Nations." It can even be argued that armed struggle by the Palestinians against the Israeli occupier is permissible under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations as mentioned by Professors Thomas Mallison and Sally Mallison of George Washington University.

Hardly any country in the world, including the U.S., has won its independence from foreign power without resort to violence, whether in the form of warlike operations or armed resistance or even terrorism. Israel itself was founded on terrorism against the British army and the Palestinian Arabs and on ethnic cleansing of the Arab areas of Palestine, with subsequent destruction of most of their villages and usurpation of their homes, possessions and lands.

It is easy for the U.S. and Israel to call Hamas and the Islamic Jihad groups (or for that matter Hizbollah of Lebanon) terrorists, disregarding their right to resistance. *They in fact are* resistance fighters and if Israel withdraws from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and from South Lebanon, peace will prevail.

The expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians is just one example of expulsion. Since Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, *it has individually* expelled 2,000 Palestinians. In fact, some of the Israeli leaders call for the "transfer" of all Palestinians, *including those in* Israel, to the Arab countries; the word transfer is a euphemism for expulsion.

The U.S. should not only in theory, but also in practice, oppose the *expulsion policy of* Israel and should as well condemn Israel's practices and policies in the occupied territories.

One may understand that the U.S. wishes to guarantee Israel's security and survival and that it has helped Israel to win the 1967 *war and saved it from destruction* during the 1973 war (one remembers the desperate cry of General Dayan to Golda Meir: "The third temple is destroyed"; when the Israeli army was smashed by the Egyptian army). But what is inadmissible, is for the U.S. to support Israel's policies and practices in the occupied territories by exercising the right of veto in the Security Council or by bringing pressure to bear on the council members not to hold a session, as it did recently, with regard to implementation of Resolution 799 and thus leaving the expellees in appalling climatic conditions.

The U.S. must have a new perspective after the end of the cold war and not side with Israel in all its stands despite its violation and transgressions of international law and human rights conventions. The U.S. must uphold the *rule of law and not* the law of jungle as exercised by Israel. The U.S., being considered the "key beacon for democracy and democratic values," must have the moral urge and courage to help the opppressed Palestinian people under Israeli Nazi-like occupation to get rid of *the Israelis* and determine their destiny like other peoples who obtained independence. Colonialism or imperialism in this day and age of the so-called *new* world order is an incongruity and an anachronism.

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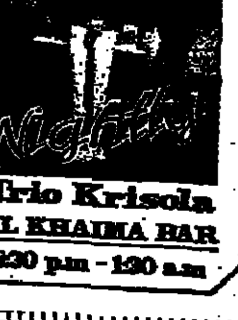
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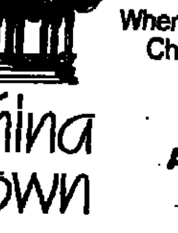
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Jordan Times

King warns against delay in talks

(Continued from page 1)

mon Peres said Friday the U.S. had promised not to pressure Israel into making more "concessions" on the issues and Mr. Christopher said Saturday he sees the American-Israeli agreement as a furtherence of Resolution 799, which calls for the immediate return of all evictees to their homeland.

One aspect of the U.S.-Israeli agreement that has not been adequately appreciated is the review process of individual expellees, said Mr. Christopher.

"That," he said, "could result in a phased return of significant numbers in the next period of time and that certainly could have a positive effect."

Palestinian officials say they would resume talks with Israel if it provides a timetable for the return of all the evictees and Mr. Christopher said it would be a "positive sign if the Palestinians were to accept the agreement."

Saying he would not predict the attitudes of the parties to the peace talks, Mr. Christopher expressed hope "they would agree to return and not allow side issues to detour us from the important work of the negotiations themselves."

King Hussein said he remains optimistic all parties to the conflict would recognise the importance of resuming the negotiations without any substantial delay.

The King said the U.S. commitment to the talks was "very important, very significant and vital."

Mr. Christopher, whose talks in Jordan also dealt "with bilateral relations and regional issues," said Jordan's democratisation process would generate a favourable reaction in the United States but said its impact in Jordan "Far outruns any effect that it may have in so distant a place as the United States."

Responding to a question on whether the U.S. would increase its economic aid to Jordan as a reward for its democratic reforms, Mr. Christopher said the process would constitute an "important aspect for the reputation of Jordan but such steps are intrinsically important for their own value." He pledged no increased aid to the Kingdom.

The secretary of state, who said on Friday his country applaudes the democratisation process in Jordan, said that until recently Israel was the only democracy in the region.

Mr. Christopher also did not say whether the U.S. would release some $30 million in suspended aid to Jordan, saying the U.S. administration would be consulting with Congress on that issue in the near future.

"We have chosen this (democratic) path because we believe in it," the King said, expressing hope the democratisation process would be an example for others.

The King said he hoped this would be viewed positively in the U.S. but stressed that Jordan did not opt for democracy to seek help from others.

After the press conference, Mr. Christopher left Amman for Damascus on the third leg of his six-country swing in the region. He is also scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Israel and possibly Lebanon.

In earlier statements Mr. Christopher sought to lower expectations of his first foreign mission since he took office last month. But observers believe the visit will provide new momentum to the peace process.

The success or failure of his tour will depend on whether he will be able to find an acceptable solution to the problem of Palestinian evictees.

But as the U.S. seems content with the agreement it reached with Israel on the issue — a de: i that the Security Council foun. satisfactory — any potent breakthrough will depend on t U.S. ability to convince th Palestinians to accept the d and Israel to accelerate the view process of the expellee.

The Palestinians, however, not expected to agree to resumption of the talks unl their demand for a timetable for the return of all expellees is announced.

The Palestinians have also demanded that Israel announce an end to its expulsion policy before committing themselves to return to the talks.

Islamists insist on Resolution 799

(Continued from page 1)

erations," he said.

Dr. Farhan said Jordanian-Palestinian relations "are unique in their character."

"Palestine and Jordan have many things in common and they are struggling against the common Zionist enemy and the imperialist onslaught on the Arab Nation," he said.

"The IAF considers it impossible for anyone to separate the Jordanians from the Palestinians in view of their unique relationship, and therefore views the future relationship to take the form of a merger between the two sides following the liberation of Palestine," he said.

Dr. Farhan said the IAF will take part in the next elections in all governorates and "will seek to choose the most capable and competent candidates."

He said that the IAF was preparing for the elections, expected in November. "We are preparing a manifesto that will be distributed to the public at the time of the coming elections," Dr. Farhan said.

He said that there was not enough time to introduce any amendments to the Elections Law and the "present arrangement seems to be the best."

He said that the proposed amendment of "one-man-one-vote" was bound to "embroil the country in sectarianism and factionalism."

If any amendment is to be introduced, he said, the IAF calls for the assignment of parliamentary seats for each of the trade and professional unions and universities and that one quarter of the electorate should choose their candidates on the premise that the Kingdom represents a single constituency.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture Mohammad Naji Amayreh (centre) Wednesday tours the exhibition of Iraqi painter Fakhri Mohammad

Iraqi painter's work compels a sharing of life's darker sides

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Does philosophy give depth to life or is it life which makes one profoundly philosophical?

Judging by Iraqi painter Fakhir Mohammad's works, it is obvious that life in his war-torn country has left a strong imprint on the author's way of perceiving life.

A detailed look at his paintings, currently on exhibit at the Baladna Art Gallery, leaves one with an unsettled feeling of gloom, and oppression. Tentative attempts to depict flowers or to use bright colours will not lighten the mood or make one think that all is right in the fertile land between the Tigris and Euphrates.

The most impressive paintings, oil on canvas, are the ones that make you share, even if for a fleeting moment and with a fraction of the intensity, the fear, anger, uncertainty, and hopeless nights of Baghdad under bombs.

Somehow serialised, this group of paintings has the power to relay the most desolate feeling of annihilation possible.

Under dark skies, taking up varying sizes of the upper part of the paintings, the earth below is convulsed in pain, chaos and grotesque nothingness. The charcoal grey, almost black ether contrasts with the rust, fire and sand ochre of the earth. Huge birds of destruction, the planes are stylised into hostile, open beaked, vaguely outlined figures.

You tend to run away from it all, take a fresh breath of air and pray it never happens to you or anybody else.

Another group, breaking from the general belief of what a painting should be, although not an innovation, is that of oddly shaped pieces of thick plywood painted over with oil.

Collage, using sac cloth, and rather primitive etching, give life to the plywood, creating abstract representations that abound with geometrical figures in bold, well-defined colours and symbols.

The symbols, some of which may be known only to the artist, are a permanent feature of Mr. Mohammad's works. Signs, crosses, letters, eyes, and stylised fish invariably adorn his paintings.

One group of three small canvasses, in its abstract representation of black and green with red and orange dots or stripes, manages to create the image of explosion, of an erupting volcano, of natural disaster, this time.

More animals, birds, fish, female figures and a kite, all stylised and in strong colours, an agglomeration of symbols and, as a centrepiece, a palm tree, form one particularly haunting canvas.

The palm is there to make a statement, to represent the artist's native country and its perennial symbol showing that Iraq was never destroyed throughout its tumultuous history of blood and civilisation, destruction and suffering.

Three smaller frames within frames manage to elicit a more optimistic feeling. Green and mustard predominate in the background, while the anil blue brings life to the paintings.

But you are brought back into the world of chaos by a canvas portraying grotesque figures. An E.T-like head dominates a world of stylised children, chickens, flowers, trees and animals. It is a microcosm within the limits of a frame, or maybe our own limitation to perceive the infinite world around us.

The strong, thick colours, the mystic symbols, the dark, bleak mood exuding from the paintings show a tormented soul that has ceased to try to make sense of life's absurdities.

Mr. Mohammad's works are on display until Feb. 28, 1993.

Sudan peace talks begin today

(Continued from page 1)

Kampala Monday.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni helped set up the peace talks during a visit to Khartoum this week. He will mediate in the talks, to be held at a secret venue in Kampala.

Khartoum had earlier blamed Col. Garang for holding up the resumption of talks by refusing to attend.

Diplomats in the region said the talks were unlikely to make a breakthrough on the conflict.

They said that the SPLA was deeply divided and that the government may not be committed to a peaceful settlement.

"You've got to get the SPLA together if you are to achieve peace in Sudan," said an African diplomat in Nairobi.

"There's no one available to put enough pressure on the government in Khartoum to make concessions necessary to finding a solution in Sudan. So at the end of the day the talks are a mere academic exercise," said another.

Nigeria brokered two sets of peace talks in Abuja last year but the process stalled last November.

The Khartoum government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir wants all SPLA factions to attend to hammer out an agreement respected by all rebels.

But Ugandan government officials said they did now know if two breakaway SPLA factions led by former top Garang aides were attending the Kampala talks.

The SPLA has been fighting what it sees as domination of the African south by the Arabised and Muslim north since 1983. Internal divisions and the loss of Ethiopian help in 1991 have seriously weakened its campaign.

Col. Garang has been driven back to a strip of land on the Sudanese-Ugandan border.

Amnesty censures Sudan, page 2

Shopkeeper attacked in Tabarbur

(Continued from page 1)

many is the possibility that people might use the "Abu Shakoush" cover to settle personal scores, leaving telltale "Abu Shakoush" traces behind at scenes of crime.

Police are working with a description of the assailant as given to them by the victims of three attacks.

In the meantime, the rumour mill is rife with reports of "Abu Shakoush sightings," and police sources have dismissed most of them as "products of imagination."

But shopkeepers in Amman and suburbs have taken precautions. These include agreements among merchants in the same area to open and close together, the presence of at least two people in the shop at any given point and extreme caution in dealing with strangers.

Many carry their personal weapons all the time, reports say.

Officials have raised concern that some of the reports were baseless and the media handling of the issue was contributing to spreading fears among the public.

"Rumours and the media approach to the incidents are worrying," said a highly-placed source last week. "They only cause unnecessary panic and worry among the public."

Russian hijacker surrenders in Sweden

(Continued from page 1)

smoked heavily and walked up and down the aisle with the grenades in hand.

After hours of talks in Tallinn, the plane was refuelled and allowed to take off for Sweden, said Valentin Privalov, the deputy head of Russia's civil aviation air traffic control centre in Moscow.

Two Swedish air force fighters escorted the plane to Arlanda airport, 45 kilometres outside Stockholm. Swedish authorities said the plane was being parked as far as possible from the passenger terminals.

Estonian police had surrounded the Aeroflot jet and closed the airport while a special team, led by Estonia's defence minister, conducted negotiations, at times abroad the plane.

The man and his wife were believed to be in the 20s, their son was about a year old.

Christopher flies into Damascus

(Continued from page 1)

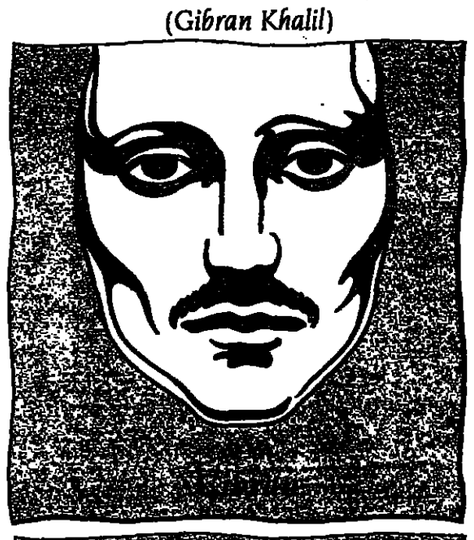
peace process forward in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace ... he should before anything else pressure Israel to comply with the resolutions of the international community and force it to implement them fully."

Another daily, Tishrin, said that "Washington's commitment to the enforcement of the principles of international law" would be seen as a "consolidation of U.S. prestige and a salvation of its credibility" which has been eroded in the Arab World because of its support for Israel over the years.

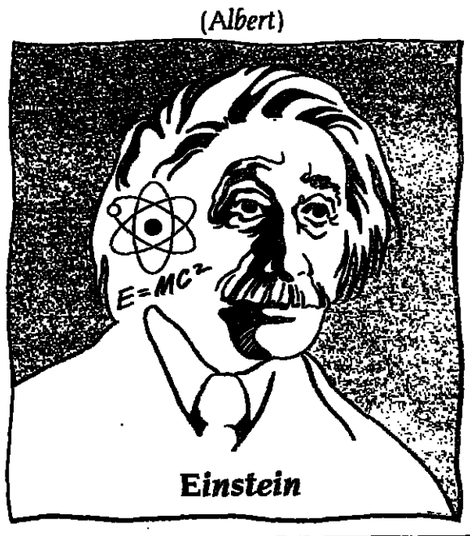
The Greats Don't Need First Names

(Ludwig van)

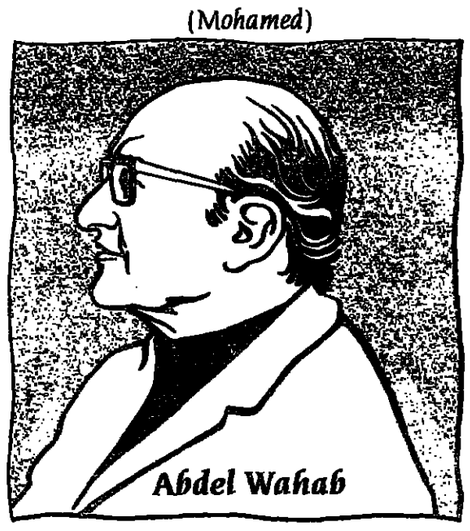
(Gibran Khalil)

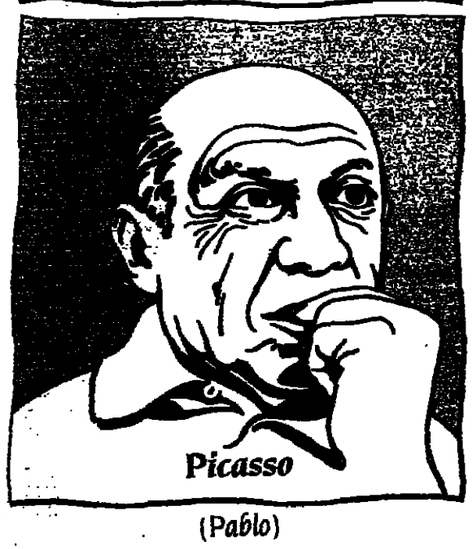


(Albert)



(Mohamed)





(Pablo)

(Wolfang Amadeus)

GROHE

(Friedrich)

Surnames require first names to distinguish who's who.

But, like many of the famous, Friedrich Grohe's reputation is such that our customers just call us Grohe - it's the same as a signature on a work of art.

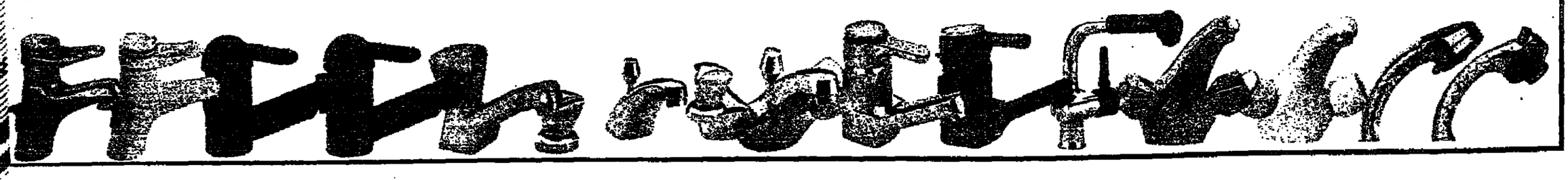
Ever aware of changing trends in the bathroom and fittings market, we at Friedrich Grohe are changing too.

From now on, we'll just sign ourselves Grohe.

After all, that's the price of fame isn't it?

GROHE

WHERE BEAUTY MEETS QUALITY



No action against Reynolds planned — for now

LONDON (AP) — Despite an ultimatum, track's governing body plans no immediate action against Butch Reynolds for refusing to back down in his battle over a doping suspension, a top IAAF official said Friday.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation last month set next Tuesday as a deadline for Reynolds, the world record holder at 400 metres, to retract his "libelous statements" and drop his legal action against the world body.

But Reynolds, who recently returned to competition after a 2½-year drug suspension, has further escalated the conflict with more derogatory remarks about the IAAF and its president, Primo Nebiolo.

Yet, IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai said no action against Reynolds was planned for the time being, meaning he may be free to run in the World Indoor Championships in Toronto next month if he makes the U.S. team.

"We are not threatening," Gyulai said. "We are not chasing him. We are not vindictive. There is hope, hope in the victory of sober thinking. We hope that intelligence will prevail in the long run. We are very much hopeful that some good advisers will be involved sooner or later, and that the case will come to an end."

"We don't want to have a war," he added.

Gyulai's statement, however, does not mean the IAAF has ruled out punishing Reynolds at a later date. He noted that any further disciplinary action against Reynolds must be decided by the full IAAF council, which next meets in May.

Reynolds could run the risk of another suspension, possibly for life, if the dispute continues. Under a clause in the IAAF rule book, an athlete who brings the sport into "disrepute" is ineligible to compete, with the length of the ban to be decided by the council.

Butch Reynolds

The IAAF also continues to explore the option of filing a libel suit against Reynolds for describing the federation's drug testing procedures as a fraud and sham.

Reynolds was suspended for two years by the IAAF after traces of the anabolic steroid nandrolone turned up in his urine after a meet in Monte Carlo in 1990. Reynolds contends he never took drugs and that the positive test was a result of faulty procedures.

Reynolds fought his case in American courts, winning the right to compete in last year's U.S. Olympic trials. He never made it to Barcelona and the IAAF extended his suspension for an extra six months, until Jan. 1, 1993, because he defied the ban.

In December, a U.S. district court judge in Columbus, Ohio, ordered the IAAF to pay Reynolds $27.3 million in damages and punitive awards. The IAAF refuses to recognise the jurisdiction of the court or its judgement.

Jazz All-Stars to get memorable day

Jordan, Barkley, Drexler face-off today

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Karl Malone and John Stockton have played in the NBA All-Star game four times before, but they say their fifth appearance could prove the most memorable.

Sunday's edition of the National Basketball Association's mid-season showcase will be Salt Lake City's first. The 19,911 seat Delta Centre will be packed with fans cheering on the Utah Jazz and Olympic teammates.

"Oh, yeah, the home crowd will give us an extra lift," Malone said. "It's neat to be able to play at home, in front of our fans for a change."

Malone, who enters the game as the NBA's third leading scorer at 28.2 points per game this season, also looks forwards to starting the game with NBA assist leader Stockton.

The last time the two were All Star starters together 1989 in Houston — Malone scored 28 points and was named the game's most valuable player. Stockton, with 17 assists and 11 points, was runner-up.

"I think it's going to be great to have (Stockton) with me on the floor. It's a great feeling," Malone said.

"Anything I can do with Karl is a pleasure for me," Stockton added. "He's been huge for this franchise and huge for my career."

Stockton, marking his fifth straight appearance in the big show, also started the 1990 game, the one Malone missed because of injury.

This year, Malone and Stockton join Charles Barkley of Phoenix, Portland's Clyde Drexler and San Antonio centre David Robinson as Western Conference starters.

Others on Suns coach Paul Westphal's roster include Sean Elliot of the Spurs; Tim Hardaway, Golden State; Shawn Kemp, Seattle; Dan Majerle, Phoenix; Danny Manning, the Los Angeles Clippers; Hakeem Olajuwon, Houston, and Portland's Terry Porter.

They face an Eastern Conference squad starting Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen of the defending NBA champion Chicago Bulls, Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal, Isiah Thomas of Detroit and Charlotte's Larry Johnson.

New York Knicks coach Pat Riley also will call on Cleveland's Brad Daugherty, Larry Nance and Mark Price; Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins and Joe Dumars; Patrick Ewing, New York, and Detlef Schrempf, Indiana.

But to the Delta Centre crowd, no stars shine brighter than Malone and Stockton.

In the seven seasons they've started for Utah, the pair have become Jazz icons — a potent combination of uncanny passing and brute force that accounts for roughly 40 points, 13 rebounds and 15 assists per game.

In the years Utah has played Stockton and Malone together, the club has made the playoffs every season and posted four consecutive campaigns of 50 or more victories. Last year, the Jazz won the Midwest Division and made the Western Conference finals before bowing to Portland.

At times, their on-court symbiosis seems other worldly, but both insist it's merely a result of hard work and timing honed over hundreds of games.

"I think it's just getting familiar with each other. Basically, that's it. You just go out and do what you do," Malone shrugged.

Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen will be one of many stars to watch in Sunday night's 1993 All-Star game.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Small sacrifices may be made today that will aid in the greater scheme of things. Look for opportunities around the workplace that increase your value to your employer.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Broken promises from the past should not be permitted to interfere today with your gaining the goodwill of those who dwell beneath your own roof by helpful acts.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can have some trouble concentrating upon the confidential activities that can be so helpful to you if you get involved in an argument between your attachment and a friend.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Conflict between a bigwig and an associate threatens to engulf you so you lose precious beneficial moments to gain the desires that mean much to you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Trying to both handle your job and be off to new interests that void good results in either direction so schedule your time more wisely.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Pay up on your obligations and await spending money on those pleasures until you are in a better position to do so; avoid spendthrift playmates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A dislike between a member of your family and an outsider can cause much friction if you allow it to take too much time and thought between them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Attending to outside activities and doing your promised task can be the medium through which you have difficulty using your good aspects today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are torn between strictly business matters and extending your creative and imaginative ideas and you would be wise to neglect neither of them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think about how you can reconcile your own personal desires with those of your household which seem to be way off at this time, be sensible.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Deciding whether to handle your secret worries now or to get into outside interests that seem compelling require calendaring hours wisely.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Friends who want to be with you could cause you considerable outlay of funds if you allow so take under advisement, commitments they bring up.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are inclined to be so subjective today and tonight that you do not realise the validity of suggestions made by some close and important associates.

THE BETTER HALF® By Glasbergen

"The earring was my boss's idea. He uses it to chain me to my desk."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharif Zeid to chair World Cup committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has accepted the chairmanship of the committee which will oversee preparations for the preliminary round of the World Cup matches to be held in May at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid. Jordan will be competing in the group alongside China, Iraq, Yemen and Pakistan.

Deal reached to sell Spurs for $75 million

SAN ANTONIO (R) — An agreement to sell the San Antonio Spurs of the National Basketball Association to a group of local investors for $75 million, was announced Friday. "It is my pleasure to announce that a group of San Antonio businesses and individual investors have joined together to purchase the San Antonio Spurs and all their assets for a price of $75 million," said Bob Coleman, expected to become the team's managing general partner. Coleman said he paid $1 million with the rest of the money due when NBA approves the sale of the franchise.

Cyprus players on strike

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot soccer players went on indefinite strike Friday in a row over transfers. They want free transfers for First and Second Division players once they reach the age of 32. The Cyprus Football Federation says this violates an agreement signed last May. The four-division weekend league programme has been called off. With the exception of a handful of foreigners there are no professional players in Cyprus.

Werder keep up pressure on Bayern

BONN (R) — European Cup Winners Cup holders Werder Bremen kept up the pressure on German leaders Bayern Munich with a 3-0 victory over Nuremberg as the First Division resumed action Friday after its two-month winter break. A 65th-minute penalty from New Zealand international Wynton Rufer and goals from Austrian Andreas Herzog and recent signing Bernd Hobsch in the 69th and 82nd minutes respectively helped the north German side go level on points with the Bavarians. Bayern lead Werder on goal difference with Eintracht Frankfurt a point behind in third.

Koeman given 3-match ban

MADRID (R) — Dutch defender Ronald Koeman was given a three-match suspension by the Spanish Soccer Federation Friday for insulting the referee in last weekend's ill-tempered encounter between Barcelona and Atletico Madrid.

The ban is in addition to the one-match suspension slapped on Barcelona's Koeman and two other players sent off during the match. A fourth player shown the red card escaped without a ban.

The federation decided to punish Koeman further after match referee Pajares Paz told their disciplinary council that the Dutch international had called him a "son of a whore". Koeman has denied saying it.

The federation also slapped a hefty fine on Sevilla's Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo for inciting violence on the pitch during a match against Deportivo Coruna.

Bilardo was fined one million pesetas ($8,600) after television microphones picked him up yelling at the team physio to stamp on an opposition player.

The physio had rushed on the pitch to help an injured Deportivo player after his nose was cut open by a high kick from Sevilla's Diego Maradona.

Sick Becker drops out of Stuttgart tennis tournament

STUTTGART (R) — Germany's Boris Becker withdrew from the Stuttgart Classic tennis tournament Saturday, saying he was suffering from stomach pains.

Top seed Becker, ranked fourth in the world, was to have met Dutch player Richard Krajicek in a semifinal match at the $2.25 million tournament.

Krajicek, 21, will now meet the winner of Saturday's other semi-final between Germany's Michael Stich and Australian Wally Masur.

Becker has been involved in a bitter feud with Stich and German tennis officials following his decision not to represent his country in the Davis Cup next month.

Becker announced his withdrawal after being examined at his hotel by several doctors who diagnosed a stomach virus.

Czechoslovak second seed Petr Korda was forced to pull out of his quarter-final match Friday because of a similar fever, giving Masur a walkover into the semi-finals.

Becker's departure dashes the Stuttgart spectators' hopes of an all-German final with Stich which looked likely after Korda's illness.

Becker had appeared in prime form Friday during his 7-6, 7-5 win over South African Wayne Ferreira.

Stich also had few problems booking his place in the last four with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Frenchman Cedric Pioline in just 76 minutes.

Stich has fiercely criticised Becker for refusing to play in the opening Davis Cup tie against Russia. Becker wants to concentrate on trying to regain the world No. 1 ranking.

The 1991 Wimbledon champion has said he will refuse to play in the Davis Cup if Becker is allowed back into the team later in the season.

Becker made a bitter outburst Thursday when he heard from German Davis Cup member Carl-Uwe Steeb that Stich had allegedly demanded a written assurance from the German Tennis Federation (DTB) that Becker would not be selected.

Both Stich and the DTB denied Friday there had been any assurance or that a meeting had taken place over the matter.

Navratilova reaches third final in three weeks

Martina Navratilova reached her third final on different continents in as many weeks when she blasted to a 6-1, 6-2 win over Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic at the Paris Women's indoor open Saturday.

The American second seed had only one real moment of difficulty in a long final game, when she had to save four break points as she served for the match.

But she won over the fourth seed with a simple volley on her second match point.

Navratilova, finalist in Tokyo and Chicago in the past fortnight, took the first five games and had a set point on Novotna's serve to make 6-0.

Novotna held on to win her first game, but Navratilova broke at the start of the second and stayed firmly in control.

"Martina played well and I didn't serve as well as I would have liked," Novotna said, "she doesn't let you get any rhythm, she's very quick and she serves well so you have no chance to come in."

In Sunday's final, Navratilova will meet the winner of the other semifinal between top seed Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and third seed Conchita Martinez of Spain.

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

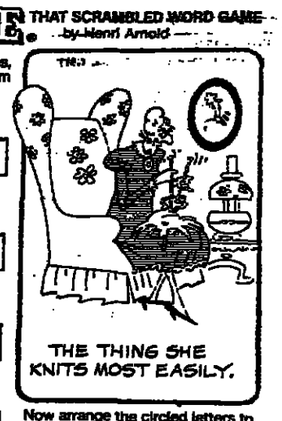
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HINEW

TOORB

LARREB

BOLGEN



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AWFUL EXCEL DUGOUT ORCHID

Answer: This sometimes takes you farther than you want to go—A WAXED FLOOR

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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A TOUCH OF CARE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ J 8 5 4 3
♡ A Q 7 6
♢ J 7 5
♣ J

WEST
♠ Void
♡ 10 9 8 5 3
♢ 10 9 8 6
♣ Q 9 3 2

EAST
♠ K Q 2
♡ J 4 2
♢ Q 4 3
♣ K 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A 10 9 7 6
♡ K
♢ A K 2
♣ A 10 8 6

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♢	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♡

Bidding a hand to the optimum contract is only half your objective. All will be for naught if you fail to make your contract.

North-South bid excellently to a fine small slam in spades. North judged that the hand was good enough to insist on game in spades and chose to make a splinter bid en route by jumping to four clubs to show a good passed-hand raise to game with a singleton club. With all prime values and not a point wasted, South first checked on aces, then made a grand slam try by cue-bidding six clubs. Holding none of the three top trump honors, North declined with alacrity.

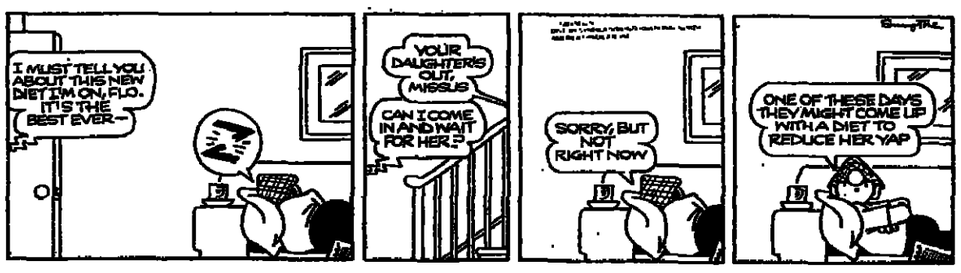
West led the ten of hearts and declarer could see no losers except for trumps. After winning the king in hand South banged down the ace of spades—down one.

While declarer was unfortunate to find a 3-0 spade split, it is not all that unusual—when you are missing three cards in a suit, they will all be in one hand 22 percent of the time. That makes it well worthwhile to take some care about the play of the hand.

If all the missing trumps are in the West hand, declarer's fate is etched in stone—two trump tricks must be lost. But if all are with East, a safety play will limit the losers to one. Declarer can either cross to the table and take a double finesse or, if entries are tangled, as is the case here, declarer can accomplish the same thing by leading a low trump toward the jack at trick two. When West shows out, declarer can then get back to dummy with a club ruff to take a marked finesse for the remaining honor. If both defenders follow to the first round, the ace picks up the last outstanding trump.

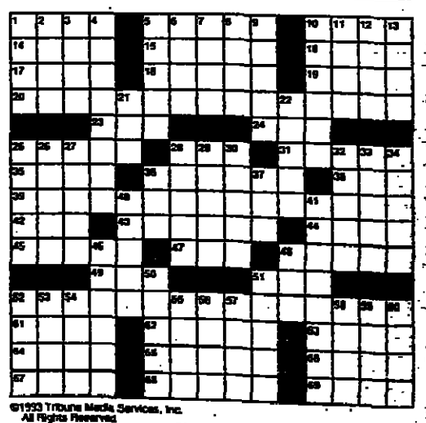
Peanuts

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothea E. Shipp



ACROSS
1 Females
5 Overcharge for tickets
10 Impertinent
14 Downs or Hefner
15 Biblical prophet
16 Ireland
17 Nautical term
18 In a high place
19 Notion
20 Colorado park
23 Presidential monogram
24 Opposite of ant.
25 — lazuli
28 Tennis stroke
31 Organic compound
35 "Unto us — is given"
36 Mask
38 —de-France
39 First place
42 — and haw
43 Hardy
44 Grit
45 Krupp works site
47 Wear away
48 Book of maps
49 Fleur-de—
51 TGIF word: abbr.
52 Place for rent
61 Words of understanding
62 Chemical compound
63 Lily plant
64 Asterisk
65 North
66 Thrashes
67 Seed receptacles of roses
68 Bombards
69 Biblical patriarch

DOWN
1 Rug type
2 — hoop
3 European river
4 Getting rid of
5 Classic Western
6 Denver's state: abbr.
7 Beginning with
8 Departed
9 Byways
10 Simulates
11 Italian resort
12 Teed off
13 Vegetable dish
21 Asner and Begley
22 "— the Needle"
25 Turning tool
26 Residue
27 Frost output
28 Cabin
29 Zed's relative
30 Intelligence test man
32 — wave
33 Ms. Verdugo
34 Tears violently
36 Joanne of films
37 Bend the head
40 Palmer of golf
41 Appraisal
46 Church men
48 Gallery's offerings
50 Pry
51 Umtiethers
52 Lillian of films
53 — spumante
54 Gamer
55 Wheel holder
56 Bolus
57 Mine entry
58 Style
59 Something banned
60 Hardy girl

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

H	I	N	T		S	M	A	S	H		H	O	T	E
U	R	I	S		P	A	R	E	U		A	G	E	R
G	A	I	A		I	N	T	E	R		P	I	L	E
			R	A	D	I	U	M		O	P	E	W	S
S	P	A		G	E	A	R		A	V	E	R	S	E
M	I	R	R	O	R		G	R	A	N				
E	L	G	A	R		I	T	E	R			S	A	T
L	E	O	N	A	R	D	O	D	A	V	I	N	C	I
L	S	T				A	L	S	O		A	L	E	R	T
			A	Z	T	E	C		S	P	A	R	T	A
A	P	O	G	E	E		A	S	T	O		D	E	W
D	I	C	E	D		U	N	C	O	R	K			
E	V	E	N		A	S	I	A	N		A	P	O	D
L	O	A	D		G	E	R	R	E		R	E	A	P
E	T	N	A		A	R	I	E	S		L	A	T	E

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 20/02/1993

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	62,980	132.000	132.000	129.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	59,537	4.720	4.670	4.620
BANK OF JORDAN	880	22.000	22.000	22.000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	10,637	3.610	3.580	3.600
THE HOUSING BANK	30,649	3.750	3.750	3.600
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	10,000	2.290	2.250	2.200
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	199,184	5.160	5.420	5.420
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	21,347	4.700	4.700	4.600
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	976	4.100	3.900	3.900
BUSINESS BANK	18,593	3.130	3.000	2.970
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	13,750	5.500	5.500	5.500
BEIT ELMAL SAVING&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	9,717	5.300	5.200	5.030
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	50,254	1.700	1.690	1.630
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3,315	3.500	3.500	3.350
[illegible] ARAB INSURANCE	1,832	2.650	2.610	2.620
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	369	3.780	3.780	3.780
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	20,525	3.710	3.720	3.650
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	1,788	3.330	3.250	3.250
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	10,841	3.130	3.100	3.100
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	47,081	1.730	1.740	1.680
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	490	1.000	0.980	0.980
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	3,200	6.390	6.400	6.400
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	56,386	4.430	4.480	4.320
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	18,987	1.730	1.720	1.700
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	17,675	0.830	0.830	0.790
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	1,380	1.180	1.150	1.150
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	2,878	1.370	1.430	1.440
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	8,580	1.360	1.330	1.290
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	29,602	2.280	2.270	2.210
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	79,453	1.910	1.900	1.870
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	3,760	4.750	4.700	4.700
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	213,814	10.050	10.000	9.720
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	20,248	3.010	3.010	2.980
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	5,500	5.600	5.500	5.500
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	485	9.850	9.700	9.700
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	40,096	6.640	6.600	6.550
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	12,340	6.000	5.900	5.850
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	35,337	3.840	3.830	3.750
SPINNING & WEAVING	26,365	3.320	3.300	3.220
[illegible] INDUSTRIES	1,115	3.760	3.750	3.650
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	938	0.790	0.750	0.750
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	138,395	11.200	11.100	10.700
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	60,411	3.320	3.280	3.140
ARAB ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY	264,571	13.450	13.300	13.700
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	4,300	1.050	1.050	1.000
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1,250	2.600	2.500	2.500
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	10,768	1.880	1.790	1.810
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	344	0.670	0.670	0.650
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	35,890	5.800	5.740	5.730
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	8,860	1.050	1.050	1.000
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	50,373	4.170	4.060	4.040
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2,750	5.620	5.500	5.500
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	1,330	2.800	2.660	2.660
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	41,305	13.800	13.700	13.700
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	6,918	0.600	0.600	0.580
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	329,313	8.580	8.600	8.150
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	48,070	4.370	4.330	4.250
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	20,061	4.090	4.070	3.890
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	11,486	1.960	1.930	1.930
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	171,189	5.550	5.690	5.290
GRAND TOTAL	2,360,318			

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 26350
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : JD 31885

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 18/2/93	New York Close Date 19/2/93
Sterling Pound*	1.4475	1.4540
Deutsche Mark	1.6315	1.6380
Swiss Franc	1.5057	1.5090
French Franc	5.5057	5.5470
Japanese Yen	119.15	118.32
European Currency Unit	1.1850**	1.1855

* USD Per STG
** European Opening 9:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 19/2/93

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.06	3.25	3.43
Sterling Pound	6.12	6.12	5.88	5.69
Deutsche Mark	8.50	8.20	7.77	7.20
Swiss Franc	5.37	5.25	5.06	4.93
French Franc	11.45	11.50	10.50	9.30
Japanese Yen	3.21	3.25	3.18	3.18
European Currency Unit	9.50	9.43	9.06	8.43

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 19/2/93

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	330.15	6.35	Silver	3.58	.080

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 20/2/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6910
Sterling Pound	0.9996	1.0046
Deutsche Mark	0.4201	0.4222
Swiss Franc	0.4566	0.4089
French Franc	0.1241	0.1247
Japanese Yen*	0.5831	0.5860
Dutch Guilder	0.3732	0.3751
Swedish Krona	0.0912	0.0917
Italian Lira*	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc	0.02009	0.02019

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 20/2/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7980	1.8170
Lebanese Lira*	0.038280	0.040657
Saudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1843
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2230	2.2450
Qatari Riyal	0.1865	0.1878
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7550	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1865	0.1878
Greek Drachma*	0.31460	0.31860
Cypriot Pound	1.3986	1.40964

Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	10/2/93 Close	17/2/93 Close
All-Share	195.32	191.46
Banking Sector	137.23	134.26
Insurance Sector	215.35	212.87
Industry Sector	275.19	270.04
Services Sector	260.11	254.71

December 31, 1990 - 100

Boeing to cut 20,000 jobs by mid '94

SEATTLE (AP) — Boeing Co., the world's leading airplane builder, has joined the list of big American companies making profound work-force cuts with plans to eliminate 20,000 jobs nationwide by mid-1994.

The cuts accounts to nearly 20 per cent of Boeing's workforce.

The company said it plans to cut 23,000 jobs this year through resignations, retirements and other attrition as well as layoffs. Those cuts will include 15,000 jobs in the Puget sound area, 6,000 in Wichita, Kansas and the rest at other locations.

It plans another 5,000 cuts in the first half of 1994, including an expected 4,000 in Washington and 1,000 in Wichita.

"These reductions reflect the realities of the current market in the aerospace industry," said chairman and chief executive Frank Shrontz.

The announcement came a week after Boeing issued 60-day layoff warning notices to 1,000 employees in Wichita.

Last year Boeing's Puget sound area work force was reduced by about 5,900 jobs, including 2,066 through layoffs.

Boeing's chief domestic competitor, McDonnell Douglas Corp., announced plans earlier to cut employment by about 10 per cent, or 8,700 jobs, this year.

Airlines that have delayed or cancelled orders and options for Boeing planes in recent months include the Irish based leasing company GPA, United Airlines and Japan Air Lines.

Job reductions were widely anticipated after an announcement Jan. 26 that production was being cut by 35 per cent over the next 18 months.

As of Jan. 1, Boeing employed about 143,500 people worldwide, including 98,300 in the greater Seattle area. Boeing is one of the nation's biggest industrial companies and its biggest exporter, with a 60 per cent share of the global jet aviation market.

Algeria, Morocco sign electric power deal

RABAT (R) — Morocco has signed a contract with Algeria to buy two billion kilowatt-hours of electricity this year and next, officials said Saturday.

The deal was signed in Casablanca Friday by the directors of the Moroccan Office National de l'Electricite and Algeria's Sonelgaz. The price was not disclosed.

Power will be supplied to the Moroccan grid by Sonelgaz at 150 megawatts during peak periods and 100 megawatts at off-peak periods.

The two groups signed an energy accord in December 1990 and Algeria supplied Morocco with 550 million KWH in 1991 and 750 million in 1992.

The increase to one billion KWH a year in 1993 and 1994 will make up for power shortages caused by drought. Reservoirs at Morocco's major hydro-electric power stations were down to 28 per cent of capacity at the end of January compared to 46 per cent a year ago.

As a result there have been power cuts, notably in the Casablanca area where most of Morocco's industry is located.

The Algerian power is carried by a 220-kilovolt line linking Oujda in east Morocco to Tlemcen in western Algeria. It was completed in February last year.

Rhodium prices dive

LONDON (R) — Rhodium prices plunged to the lowest levels since 1991 this week and could fall further as recession-hit Japanese car makers offload stocks and Russia seeks alternative markets for the most precious of precious metals, dealers said.

Rhodium steadied at around $1,500 an ounce Friday, down $225 from levels seen only a week ago and may slide to $1,400.

The platinum group metal is heavily dependent on demand from the car industry, where it is used in the manufacture of pollution-reducing auto catalytic converters due to its high efficiency in reducing nitrous oxide in exhaust gases.

On Thursday prices plummeted by $150 on a Reuter report that Japanese motor giants Nissan and Toyota would meet their current rhodium needs from stockpiles and might sell excess metal.

The car makers have been under pressure to slim down expensive rhodium stockpiles from a slump in sales.

Japan's domestic vehicle sales, excluding mini vehicles, totalled 5.33 million in 1992, down 7.2 per cent from a year ago, the second straight year-on-year decline.

Nissan and Toyota, Japan's two largest car companies, saw their vehicle sales fall by 10.8 per cent and 5.4 per cent last year from 1991's levels.

Both firms said they would not be concluding supply contracts for platinum metals with Russian exporter Almazjuvelirexport for the first quarter of this year.

Metal dealers said some Japanese car makers were unhappy with Almaz's apparent inability to make supply commitments beyond the end of March, due to the failure of Russia's parliament to sanction sales for a longer period.

The parliament, at loggerheads with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, has tied up platinum metal exports in bureaucratic red tape, they said.

Some 80 per cent of Japan's total rhodium imports estimated at 60,000 ounces in 1992, are destined for the car industry.

The car companies' actions have raised fears that metal from Russia will be offloaded in other markets.

Brian Nathan, managing director of dealers Ayrton Metals said the small rhodium market was acutely sensitive to switches in sentiment.

The fall in rhodium prices has hit mines in South Africa, the world's largest producer ahead of Russia, which accounts for nearly 80 per cent of total supply estimated at 350,000 ounces.

Clinton says U.S. may one day need national sales tax

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio (R) — President Bill Clinton said Friday as he campaigned for his economic reform plan that America may one day have to implement a national sales tax to put its economy on a par with foreign competitors.

"I do believe that America at another time, and maybe not too long in the future, will debate whether we want to shift the nature of our tax system because we're in a global economy," he told a campaign-style town meeting at the high school in southern Ohio.

Mr. Clinton's sales-tax comment represented his first public foray into that touchy subject and White House: Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers was quick to tell reporters that "there's nothing imminent" on proposing such a tax.

"I'm ruling it out for now," she said.

Mr. Clinton spent an hour fielding questions in Chillicothe as part of his drive to win grassroots support for his controversial new package of tax rises and spending cuts.

"If you do a national sales tax, you have to be really careful to be fair to people," he said. "You have to exempt food... (and) maybe clothing, or (provide) a certain amount of allowance. You have to be careful how you do it so you don't make it a regressive tax. But they can be designed that way and we're the only major nation without one."

Mr. Clinton's own package, already drawing Republican opposition in Congress, calls for $242 billion in new income, and energy taxes to create jobs and cut federal deficits.

The president brought up the possibility of restructuring the tax system to bring the United States in line with countries like Canada, Germany and Japan in response to a woman who asked why he did not opt for a national sales tax instead of his broad-based energy tax proposal.

The president, on the second and final day of a trip to the midwest and New York, said he believed the energy tax would have "a very modest impact" on energy costs and would be spread equally throughout the country.

Under Mr. Clinton's proposals, wealthy Americans and corporations would pay a higher income tax rate while middle-class Americans making $30,000 a year would pay mostly in the form of a tax on their fuel consumption.

One woman asked for more details on plans for taxes and spending. "What I need to hear from you," she said, is over the next four years how much spending, dollar wise, will we see, how much total revenue will be increased in our taxes?"

He said that in the first four years "the spending cuts and the revenues increases are about equal. If you string it out for four more years; if you really change the spending habits of the country, the spending cuts are far greater than the tax increases."

Mr. Clinton added that "I have no interest in raising a penny in taxes, if we're not going to do the cuts."

Taking on criticism that his economic plan is weighted too heavily toward tax increases and not enough toward less spending, Mr. Clinton acknowledged that "we did actually increase some funds."

He said the increases were in such areas as the head start programme for children in needy families, school loans and retraining of workers who have lost jobs through defence industry cuts.

One woman asked why Mr. Clinton opted for an energy tax rather than a national sales tax or a lottery.

Mr. Clinton said he had always opposed lotteries for fund raising. He said he rejected the value added type of tax as "a radical change in the tax system" but said it might be considered "in the years ahead."

On his proposed energy tax, Mr. Clinton said that the United States "still has the lowest energy costs by far" among the world's industrial nations.

Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan delivered a relatively upbeat view of the U.S. economy Friday and praised President Clinton for offering a serious plan to tackle the ballooning deficit.

The central bank chairman forecast economic growth this year would improve modestly to around a 3.0 per cent to 3.25 per cent rate by year's end, up from 21.9 per cent last year.

In semi-annual testimony to Congress on the state of the economy and monetary policy, Mr. Greenspan gave solid backing to Mr. Clinton's economic proposal to slash the federal deficit.

"It is a serious proposal, its baseline economic assumptions are plausible and it is a detailed programme-by-programme set of recommendations," Mr. Greenspan said.

The central bank chairman stressed the urgency of tackling the federal deficit, which has grown sixfold in 12 years to over $300 billion, and disagreed with those who say economic growth alone will solve the problem.

"The hope that we can possibly inflate or grow our way out of the structural deficit is fanciful," he said.

Mr. Greenspan also threw doubt upon charges by some business leaders and Republicans that higher taxes that hit corporations and the wealthy hardest that were proposed in Mr. Clinton's sweeping plan would hinder growth.

"Fear that the deficit reduction can be overdone and create a degree of fiscal drag that would significantly harm the economy I find misplaced," he said."

He called the debt problems "corrosive forces slowly undermining the vitality of our free market system."

"As the nation's central bankers, our primary and professional concern is having the structural deficit sharply reduced, and soon," Mr. Greenspan said.

The Fed would do its part to support economic expansion while containing inflationary pressures and would take into account what the administration and Congress were doing on the budget side in formulating central bank policy, he said.

"The effects of fiscal policy on the economy... will depend importantly on the credibility of long-run deficit reduction and the market reaction to any package," he said.

Kenya announces economic reforms

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya announced economic reforms Friday which it hopes will win the approval of international donors who suspended crucial aid 15 months ago.

"The government has gone out of its way to meet demands set by donors," Finance Minister Musalia Mudavadi told reporters ahead of a meeting Monday with visiting teams from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

But aid officials who examined the reforms, which included trade liberalisation measures making it easier for importers to obtain hard currency, said Kenya still had a long way to go before it could impress the donors.

Short-term funding worth about $60 million in structural adjustment credits could be restored if the Washington finance institutions agree targets for economic reforms and management have been met.

"We are anticipating that our discussions with the IMF and World Bank will give rise to the development of a new programme with them," Mr. Mudavadi told reporters.

But a nod of approval from the two bodies would be worth much more as a signal to Western donors to resume bilateral programmes in the longer term.

Donors at a World Bank consultative group suspended aid worth about $40 million a month, mostly balance of payments support, in November, 1991 to press the government into political and economic reforms.

Project aid worth some $850 million to $1 billion a year was unaffected by the donor suspension.

President Daniel Arap Moi reluctantly unbanned opposition parties and went on to win multiparty elections in December.

But the IMF and World Bank still have to study if adequate progress has been made to privatise loss-making state corporations, manage public spending and stamp out rampant corruption.

Under the new liberalisatison measures announced by Mr. Mudavadi, businesses in the service sector, such as tourism, will be allowed to retain 50 per cent of earnings in foreign exchange.

"The scheme will make it easy for people in the airline business for example to remit their hard currency earnings abroad," Mr. Mudavadi said.

British Airways recently said they were cutting the weekly number of flights to Nairobi for this reason and because aviation fuel prices in Kenya were among the highest in the world.

Mr. Mudavadi also said only central government imports and debt servicing would receive foreign exchange through the official central bank rates.

"All other importers or those seeking foreign exchange will acquire it through the interbank market," he said.

Mr. Mudavadi, who was appointed last month, said he was liberalising trade regimes by allowing importers to apply for hard currency directly through commercial banks rather than just the central bank. He said details would be announced later.

The government, he said, was doing all it could to keep money supply under control. Aid officials noted that Kenyan inflation is running at between 40 and 50 per cent.

Ukraine starts to sell off state enterprises

LVOV, Ukraine (R) — Ukrainians flocked to buy state-owned shops and restaurants Saturday as the former Soviet republic launched its privatisation programme.

Several thousand people packed an auction in the western city of Lvov for the sale of the first 70 small businesses.

"This is the day of the beginning of mass privatisation in Ukraine, "Volodymyr Pilipchuk, head of parliament's economic committee, told the crowd. "The blow of the auctioneer's hammer marks a new era for ownership in Ukraine."

Prices soared to hundreds of times their assessed value.

The first enterprise, the Sofia Hardware Store in central Lvov, was valued at 150,000 karbovanets ($75). It was bought for 48 million karbovanets ($24,000) by a staff collective headed by the shop's manager, 31-year-old Irina Yasnitskaya.

Under the programme, 60 per cent of all small state enterprises in Lvov are to be privatised by the end of 1993.

The programme was drawn up with assistance from the International Finance Corporation, a World Bank affiliate specialising in stimulating private enterprise, which helped with ground-breaking auctions of state property in Russia last year.

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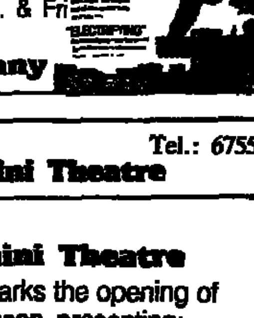
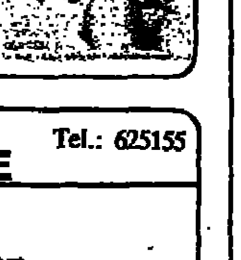
Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144
DARKMAN


Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Special show for children on Th. & Fri at 11:00 a.m.
The Bugs Bunny

Cinema PLAZA Tel.: 699238
Basic Instinct

Starring: Michael Douglas and Sharol Stone
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
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Serbs stop one U.N. convoy, mine holds up another in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Rebel Serbs stopped U.N. trucks trying to take emergency supplies Saturday to besieged Muslims in eastern Bosnia, aid officials said.

They said an advance group for the three trucks trying to reach the Muslim community of Zepa had been told by local Serb Commander Rajko Hurtic:

"You can go no further. When the Muslims stop fighting and lay down their weapons, you can go up there and feed them."

Tony Land, Sarajevo operations chief for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said Commander Hurtic had stopped the convoy at Borike, 15 kilometres from Zepa.

A spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force said a bulldozer trying to repair the road for another convoy to reach the Muslim town of Gorazde had hit a mine.

The spokesman, Commander Barry Frewer, said no one had been seriously injured.

He did not know if the bulldozer, attempting to fill a huge hole, had been damaged. But he added: "Obviously the hole is a little bigger."

The success or failure of the two convoys could be a test for future U.N. relief operations in Bosnia after U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali overruled a decision by his refugee Commissioner Sadako Ogata to suspend relief efforts for most of the country.

Mr. Land said that despite Dr. Ghali's move the UNHCR would not rush to send new convoys into eastern Bosnia, where tens of thousands of Muslims are cut off by the Serbs, without firm signs that they would get through.

"We are still testing the temperatures of the guarantees given," he said.

Mrs. Ogata took her decision because of the Serb blockade and a boycott of U.N. aid in Sarajevo over failure to get supplies to the trapped Muslims.

"We have 23 trucks loaded and waiting at the airport, but here in Sarajevo we have nowhere to take the goods since the city is not accepting delivery of them," Mr. Land said.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic was due to meet General Philippe Morillon, commander of the U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, to discuss the boycott.

Commander Frewer said Gen. Morillon, who criticised Mrs. Ogata's suspension of aid, was "absolutely delighted and not at all surprised" at Dr. Ghali's move.

But Mr. Land praised Mrs. Ogata for drawing international attention to the relief issue.

"It appears it was the high commissioner announcing she had no option but to suspend her activities which got the spotlights turned back on," he said.

The 10-day-old boycott has forced 1,000 tonnes of aid to be stacked at Sarajevo Airport and another 1,000 tonnes in city warehouses. But enough food had already got through to the supply system to delay any major effects.

Although the Red Cross has closed several of its communal kitchens for refugees and displaced people, it says those it serves have some food stored away and have not yet gone hungry.

An adviser to Mr. Izetbegovic said on Sarajevo Radio that the Bosnian government would not join peace talks in New York until aid convoys were guaranteed safe passage to the Muslims in the east.

Kemal Muftic said in the interview: "That does not mean, of course, that all that is needed is for one truck to arrive to make everything all right."

The radio said Friday that 157 people — 63 of them children — had died of hunger, disease and cold in the previous 48 hours in the region around Srebrenica in the east.

Meanwhile, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) thinks up to 60,000 troops, including Russian forces, could be needed to enforce an international peace plan for Bosnia and that they could be there for years, alliance sources say.

The alliance, which has said it could take on the job for the United Nations of enforcing an accord reached among the warring parties, is planning to include Russian forces in an unprecedented joint operation following agreement with Moscow.

NATO sources said preliminary military plans covered a range of options but that a corps-sized unit of between 40,000 and 60,000 troops, backed with heavy weaponry and air support, would probably be needed to enforce a peace agreement.

"We think it would need to be in place for a very long time, anything up to a decade," said one source, who asked not to be identified. "That makes sense if you look at the conflict and at other U.N. peacekeeping missions that lasted years."

Western allies, fearing they could be drawn into a Vietnam-style war that will drag on for years, have so far ruled out military intervention to try and end the bloody conflict in which tens of thousands have died.

The figure for troops would probably include the 7,500 lightly-armed U.N. peacekeepers already in Bosnia delivering aid. Most of them are from NATO nations.

However, the sources said it was not yet clear what "enforcement" of the peace plan drawn up by international mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance would mean.

"We won't know what the rules of engagement will be until the United Nations decides and until it becomes clear there will be a peace plan to enforce," said one source.

"But it's becoming clear we will have to commit a large and well-armed force if we want any agreement respected."

The Vance-Owen plan is currently being discussed at the United Nations in New York. NATO has been seeking to expand its role since the end of the cold war into areas like peacekeeping and taking on a new mission in Bosnia would be a litmus test.

Although no alliance nation has formally committed forces to the military plans. NATO sources said they expected U.S. troops to make up around 10,000 of the total. France and Britain, with forces already in Bosnia, are also expected to contribute.

If the United Nations effectively "subcontracts" the job to NATO once a peace agreement is reached, the operation would be run by the alliance's U.S.-led military command under General John Shalikashvili.

But other nations, including Russia, could be involved.

Alliance sources said earlier this week that Russia had agreed NATO could do the job and that it wanted to participate. The agreement was reached when the U.S. special envoy on Bosnia, Reginald Bartholomew, visited Moscow last week.

Yeltsin rival steps back from confrontation

MOSCOW (R) — Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov Saturday took a step back from a mounting confrontation with President Boris Yeltsin over who rules Russia.

A statement issued by his spokesman indicated that despite an increasingly heated war of words, Mr. Khasbulatov was still ready to negotiate a power-sharing agreement, which could avert a controversial constitutional referendum.

"The agreement is an important issue. And it needs thorough and thoughtful work," spokesman Konstantin Zlobin quoted Mr. Khasbulatov as saying.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Khasbulatov agreed last week to try and work out a political deal on the division of powers between the executive and legislature, rather than leave the issue for a potentially destabilising plebiscite, set for April 11.

But the negotiations appeared close to collapse Friday after Mr. Khasbulatov bluntly rejected Mr. Yeltsin's proposals. These called for a freeze in the power struggle so the country could concentrate on forging ahead with economic reform.

In a searing attack, Mr. Yeltsin's official spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov accused Mr. Khasbulatov of seeking confrontation with the president at any cost and hampering negotiations. He suggested that parliament sack its chairman.

"R.I. Khasbulatov is increasingly discrediting himself as a party in negotiations, as a politician with whom one can do business in Russia," Mr. Kostikov's statement said.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) talks with Russian parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov during a meeting in the Kremlin (AFP photo)

But Saturday's riposte from Mr. Zlobin made clear that Mr. Khasbulatov had chosen to view the attack as Mr. Kostikov's own initiative, leaving himself space for manoeuvre. It did not criticise the president but focused its fire on his spokesman.

"Another person has emerged in Russia, who decides Russian policy under the 'roof' of the president," Mr. Zlobin's statement said. "It is another attempt by V. Kostikov to become a judge of one of the top state officials in this country."

A joint commission, set up under last week's agreement, met for the first time Saturday to work out a compromise document between the drafts from the two parties.

Mr. Yeltsin's draft, handed to Mr. Khasbulatov Thursday, provided that the two parties should not seek changes in Russia's balance of powers for the time being and that they should voluntarily restrain themselves in the use of some powers already existing.

Mr. Yeltsin said that a special assembly should be called to adopt a new constitution, rather than the Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's conservative-dominated top legislature. In the meantime, parliament should not interfere in government activities.

Mr. Khasbulatov has not presented his proposals for the agreement so far. But in a speech, delivered in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk Friday, he outlined his position.

Mr. Khasbulatov suggested that Mr. Yeltsin's powers be trimmed in favour of the parliament and insisted that the Congress was the supreme authority in Russia, second to none. He also spurned the president's idea of convening a Constitutional Assembly.

Mr. Yeltsin said earlier that if the agreement failed, he would go ahead with a referendum to establish the principles for a new Russian constitution. He said he would soon offer his wording for the ballot.

The planned referendum has been regarded by many politicians, even among Mr. Yeltsin's supporters, as potentially divisive and distabilising.

Many people preoccupied with everyday hardships could shun the vote and it might be boycotted by some of Russia's more independent-minded ethnic regions.

Laureates urge Thais to motivate Burma change

BANGKOK (R) — Nobel Peace Prize winners seeking freedom for Burmese laureate Aung San Suu Kyi Saturday urged Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai to take the lead in pushing for change in neighbouring Burma.

A delegation of five laureates and two representatives of groups which have won the peace prize met Mr. Chuan and Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri in Bangkok in the morning.

They presented a resolution they announced Friday demanding Aung San Suu Kyi's release and for the military junta holding her to honour the results of a 1990 national election her party won by a landslide, mission organiser Edward Broadbent said.

In their resolution, the laureates recommended the United Nations suspend the government's membership and called for an immediate U.N. arms embargo and trade sanctions against it until it complied with the objectives.

They called on the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which groups Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, to use their influence to encourage the junta to restore democracy.

Mr. Broadbent, of the Montreal-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, told Reuters the discussions with Mr. Chuan were full and frank.

"Our view was that Thailand could and should play a leadership role in achieving the objective," he said.

Thailand has sought to maintain close relations with the Burmese junta since it seized power in 1988 by brutally crushing a pro-democracy uprising.

The laureates' visit has stirred controversy, with the leaders of the powerful armed forces saying it was wrong to allow them into the country to criticise a neighbour.

Mr. Prasong was quoted in the Nation newspaper as saying Thailand would stand by the so-called "constructive engagement" policy ASEAN has followed towards Burma.

The policy is usually defined by the maintenance of good relations with Rangoon in the hope of exerting some influence for improvements. This has been criticised by those who feel tougher action would be more effective.

One of the laureates, former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez, said Friday that constructive engagement should change to "rapid disengagement."

The Rangoon junta, formally known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council, has denounced the Nobel visit and said it would have no influence on policy.

The other laureates on the mission were South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the 1984 laureate, the 1976 winners, Northern Ireland peace campaigners Betty Williams and Mairead Maguire, and Argentinian human-rights advocate Adolpho Perez Esquivel, the 1980 winner.

Donna Anderton represented the American Friends Service Committee, winner in 1947, and Ross Daniel, of Amnesty International, which won in 1977.

Mobutu in France for medical treatment

PARIS (R) — Embattled Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko, facing opposition and international demands to hand over power after 27 years of iron fist rule, is in France for medical treatment, the French Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

A spokesman said Mr. Mobutu had arrived for "a short private stay for medical treatment" on the Riviera coast, where he has a sumptuous pink marble clifftop villa at Roquebrune, between Monte Carlo and Menton.

French officials said Mr. Mobutu's arrival Friday night was not linked to efforts by the United States, France and Belgium to pressure him to give up power.

An official French source said the president was suffering from a dental abcess requiring an operation and he had been admitted to France for two days.

A Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Brussels had been aware for some time of the planned visit and had no comment.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said Friday that U.S., French and Belgian officials were discussing ways to bring democracy to riot-torn Zaire and move Mr. Mobutu out of power.

The Western powers are studying the possibility of freezing Mr. Mobutu's assets abroad, reported to include large deposits in Switzerland as well as properties in France, officials said.

Angola rebels fail to meet talks deadline

LUANDA (R) — UNITA rebels failed again to meet a deadline set by international observers demanding a date for resuming Angola peace talks, U.N. officials said Saturday.

But they said UNITA insisted it wanted to resume dialogue with the government to end their escalating civil war

UNITA declined to suggest to U.N. special representative Margaret Anstee a date by the Friday deadline set by Portugal, Russia and the United States who are observing peace accords signed in 1991, her spokesman said.

The spokesman said officials of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) planned to contact Ms. Anstee again Saturday to discuss logistics and security concerns they say are obstacles to peace talks.

"UNITA told her that it was ready to return to the negotiating table the soonest possible for a negotiated peace," he told reporters.

"UNITA asked for a plan to be prepared so that these matters can be dealt with," he added.

A first round of talks in late January in Addis Ababa failed to produce a ceasefire. On Wednesday UNITA refused to meet the observers' first deadline to set a date for another session.

Diplomats said UNITA did not appear committed to seeking a solution while the observers could not force it to talk.

"We only have diplomatic means at our disposal," the observers' Portuguese spokesman, Antonio Monteiro, told reporters.

Senior officials of the three countries are due to meet in Lisbon Tuesday to discuss the peace accords, which briefly ended 16 years of civil war.

Fighting has resumed with unprecedented intensity since UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi rejected his September electoral defeat and began expelling local authorities from some 75 per cent of the country.

Diplomatic sources say one possible item on the agenda will be allowing the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government to receive outside military help.

The Angolan Armed Forces said the situation in Huambo was "very worrying" after particularly heavy shelling Friday.

The World Food Programme said about 100,000 people had fled the city. Destruction in the entire country was threatening three million people — nearly one-third of the population — with hunger and disease.

"Huambo had a population of about 400,000 people and we simply do not know how or whether they are going to survive," said a statement, adding that the city's hospital a month ago was operating at five-fold its capacity and was running out of medicine and food.

South Africa Saturday dismissed as absurd an Angolan allegation it is preparing a naval assault in support of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement.

An Angolan government statement on national radio Friday appealed to the West to halt this "macabre and inhuman plan".

"According to reliable sources, maritime specialists and the navy are involved in the military manoeuvres in Cape Town, South Africa, in preparation for military actions...on behalf of UNITA," the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Awie Marais said the statement was ridiculous.

"I am not even going to refer this to the foreign minister. Mr. (Pik) Botha will not comment on such an absurd allegation."

De Klerk to name blacks to cabinet

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — With an eye on upcoming multiracial elections, President F.W. De Klerk is about to shuffle his cabinet to include blacks for the first time, news reports said Saturday.

Mr. De Klerk, seeking to shake his government's stodgy image, also is expected to name some experts from the private sector to replace long-time ministers and deputy ministers on their way out, several local newspapers said, citing unidentified government sources.

In another election-related move, an African National Congress (ANC) spokesman said Saturday the black group was willing to end its support for international economic sanctions once the date for a multiracial election is set.

Previously, the ANC has said sanctions must remain until a multiracial government is in office. But with the election expected by late this year or early 1994, the group is trying to reassure business leaders and wealthy whites it will move to improve the country's recession-ridden economy.

The most striking government change could be the appointment of a black to the cabinet, which has excluded blacks for decades. Blacks still have no representation in parliament and are not allowed to vote, although that will change when the country's first multiracial election is held late this year or in early 1994.

Indians and people of mixed race, known as coloureds, have had separate chambers in parliament since 1984, but they have far less power than the white chamber of parliament. The leaders in the Indian and mixed-race chambers have been considered members of the cabinet only by virtue of their positions in their own races' houses. No non-white has held a portfolio in the cabinet.

Mr. De Klerk and the country's other major political leaders are gearing up for multiracial elections, which will include the country's 30 million blacks for the first time. Mr. De Klerk's ruling National Party faces a tough campaign against the ANC, the country's largest black group.

Meanwhile, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, 74, insisted Saturday he was not seriously ill, but the ANC said he needed a rest from a hectic schedule of 16-hour days.

Mr. Mandela suddenly cancelled all appointments last week, touching off speculation he might be unable to complete negotiation of South Africa's transition to democracy.

But in a brief appearance before supporters at an international solidarity conference in Johannesburg he said: "My doctors have given me a clean bill of health."

The ANC said in a statement Mr. Mandela spent three days in hospital this week for tests and treatment for "flu-like symptoms" brought on by a chill and exhaustion.

The movement released details of his daily programme and said he would rest with friends for two weeks.

The ANC said Mr. Mandela begins every day at 5 a.m. with 90 minutes of exercise ranging from a walk to a session on his exercise bicycle.

With family Doctor Ntatho Motlana at his side, Mr. Mandela made an unscheduled five-minute speech at the conference. He appealed for international support during the runup to South Africa's first all-race elections some time this year or next.

"In order to prepare for the strenuous task that lies ahead, I will now begin my two weeks of complete rest," he said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

10-year-olds questioned in U.K. slaying

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) Hundreds of people stunned by the slaying of a toddler gathered in candle-lit prayer as police interrogated the two 10-year-old boys arrested on suspicion of abducting and murdering the boy. An ecumenical vigil drew 600 people Friday and organisers were forced to broadcast the service outside as a few hundred people huddled in the icy night air. The killing of 2-year-old James Bulger has shocked Britain and enraged the people of Liverpool, 270 kilometres northwest of London. The child was kidnapped after he briefly wandered away from his mother in the busy Strand Shopping Centre on Feb. 12. His battered body was found on a rail track two days later. The shoping mall's security cameras photographed James with two boys as they led him away by the hand. Police said they relied partly on computer-enhanced closeups of their faces — broadcast nationwide — to track down the suspects.

Philippine rebel commander surrenders

MANILA (AP) — A well known communist rebel commander surrendered Friday, saying he believes the government of President Fidel Ramos could succeed in ending the 24-year-old insurgency. "My surfacing in the present situation is a sign that I believe that the present administration has a chance to succeed," former guerrilla leader Lepoldo Mabilangan told reporters after a meeting with Gen. Ramos. "I will still help the people not through armed struggle, but through legal means." Mr. Mabilangan, who joined the rebel movement in 1979, became popular as Comrade Hector, head of the Banahaw Command of the New People's Army in the eastern province of Quezon, where the rebels have strong support among impoverished farmers. "Comrade Hector is one of the most capable and elusive enemies that the armed forces have contended in that area," Gen. Ramos said. "He has been a worthy opponent, but now that is over." Mr. Mabilangan said he wanted to spend more time with his family. "I am returning to normal life," he said.

Escobar's family prevented from leaving

MEDELLIN, Colombia (R) — Security police prevented Colombian cocaine king Pablo Escobar's wife and two children from flying to Florida Friday because the youngsters did not have valid permission from their father to travel. Police said they stopped Mr. Escobar's wife and family shortly before they were due to board an Avianca Airlines flight to Miami to check their travel documents. Mr. Escobar was not with the group, which also included nephews and several bodyguards. Medellin security police issued a statement confirming that the Escobar children had been stopped from leaving the country because they did not have a valid signed permission from their father allowing them to leave. After spending two hours waiting inside the airport, the Escobars were driven under heavy security to a specially chartered helicopter which flew them to a secret location in Medellin.

Kohl losing voters in latest poll

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl is losing public support as he struggles with an economic recession and German unity costs, even though most voters would back higher taxes, according to a leading opinion poll released Friday. It found Mr. Kohl's slide from a popularity peak after German unity in 1990 was continuing, putting his centre-right coalition government partner behind a possible left-leaning alliance of Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens. Public approval of Mr. Kohl's conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) was 28 per cent, the lowest level since the monthly poll for the ZDF public television network began 16 years ago. Asked how they would vote if general elections set for 1994 were held now, 43 per cent of Germans said they would back Mr. Kohl's coalition while 48 per cent supported the SPD and Greens/Alliance 90 party of environmental and civil rights activists. Mr. Kohl's government was down by two percentage points from last month while the SPD and Greens each gained one point.

Germany, U.S. to create joint army corps

BONN (R) — Two joint military corps being set up by the German and U.S. armies in Germany will be inaugurated in late April, a U.S. army spokeswoman said. "This is a step in establishing a permanent relationship," she said. The joint corps, expected to have about 70,000 men each, will officially come into being at a ceremony probably to be held on April 22 in the German city of Wiesbaden, she said. Germany and France established a joint corps last year, upsetting some U.S. officials who feared it represented a German shift away from the NATO alliance which links Europe to North America. France has only observer status in NATO. Bonn, denying that the Franco-German Corps was a threat to NATO, agreed to set up joint army corps with its neighbours Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as with the U.S. German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe and former U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney agreed in January to form the two mixed divisions. Officials from both armies signed an agreement Wednesday on details of the set-up.

Indian riot police guard mosque

VARANASI, India (AP) — Riot police Friday sealed off a Muslim mosque that Hindu militants want to tear down as thousands of people celebrated a major Hindu festival in a temple next door. But the Hindu crowds seemed bent on prayer rather than protest, despite police fears that Hindu-Muslim tensions could erupt into riots. More than 100,000 Hindus flocked to a temple to celebrate the festival of Shivaratri, or the night of Lord Shiva. About 1,400 Muslims gathered later at Gyanvapi Mosque, near the River Ganges. "I'm glad the afternoon prayers went peacefully," said Varanasi district magistrate Saurabh Chandra.

Former Canadian premier retires

OTTAWA (R) — Former Conservative Prime Minister Joe Clark, one of Canada's most respected leaders despite a career of upsets, is retiring from politics after 21 years, friends said. Mr. Clark, 53, who served as Canada's foreign minister for much of the 1980's, was to announce Saturday that he would not seek reelection to parliament in general elections later this year. His departure ends speculation that Mr. Clark would take on life-long party rival Prime Minister Brian Mulroney once again in a battle for leadership of the Conservatives. "I regret that he has decided to leave when he has many years of good service left," said friend and journalist David Humphreys. "But you can only take so much punishment."

COLUMN

Bitter cold can't stop Clinton from jogging

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio (R) — It was three degrees Fahrenheit (minus 16 centigrade) outside, snow covered the ground and water was frozen in gutter spouts as fitness fanatic Bill Clinton went jogging. Dragged along with the president for a three-mile jaunt through Yoctangee Park was Chillicothe's mayor, Joseph Sulzer, who was wearing a sweatshirt appropriately emblazoned OUCH — for Ohio University at Chillicothe. "Not normally," Mr. Sulzer replied when asked if he was a frequent jogger in this kind of weather. It was toe-numbing cold. With the wind chill factor added it was minus six degrees Fahrenheit (minus 23 centigrade). Dressed warmly, the president ran, waved to townspeople, shook a few hands and ran some more. "Good to be back out in the country," he told reporters. After his run, Mr. Clinton rode in a motorcade through Chillicothe, a one-time Western frontier town that was Ohio's first state capital. If all roads lead to Rome, for Mr. Clinton they have a McDonald's hamburger restaurant to stop at on the way. "Put a little decaf in there," a perspiring president, wearing a baseball cap with "jog Ohio" and a saxophone on it, was overheard to say over the din of well-wishers.

Hitler's skull is in cardboard box in Moscow archive

MOSCOW (R) — Parts of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's skull are lying in Moscow in the Russian state archive, its director Sergei Mironenko said Friday, ending decades of speculation over the whereabouts of the missing remains. "I am holding in my hands the remains of Hitler's skull," journalist Ella Maximova wrote in the daily newspaper Izvestia. Asked to confirm her story, Mr. Mironenko told Reuters by telephone that the basic facts were all true. Ms. Maximova wrote that the remains of the Nazi leader had been kept "in the strictest secrecy for God knows how many years, in a cardboard box marked blue ink for pens, together with some bloodstained splinters of wood from the sofa in the Fuehrer's last office in the bunker." She said she had studied six thick volumes of an investigation into Hitler's fate compiled by Stalin's NKVD security police. The files showed the Fuehrer and his wife Eva Braun killed themselves in the afternoon of April 30, 1945, as Soviet troops advanced into Berlin. Their bodies were doused with petrol and set on fire in the gardens of the Reichskanzlei, and were then thrown into a hole and thinly covered with earth and rubble. The remains were found on May 4 by a Russian soldier, Ivan Churkov, who stepped into a bomb crater in Reichskanzlei grounds without at first realising what he had found.

Gardener says P.W. Botha assaulted him

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police said they were investigating a complaint that former South African President P.W. Botha had assaulted his black gardener. Gardener Jan Louw accused Mr. Botha and his bodyguard of hitting him earlier this month during an argument over whether he had been drinking on duty.

Britain rules out posthumous pardons for soldiers

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major Friday ruled out posthumous pardons for more than 300 British soldiers executed for cowardice and desertion during World War I. "We cannot rewrite history by substituting our latter day judgement for that of contemporaries, whatever we might think," Mr. Major said. "No evidence was found to lead us...to think that the convictions were unsound or that the accused were treated unfairly at the time," he said in a letter to a lawmaker who has campaigned for pardons for 307 British soldiers executed during the war. Lawmaker Andrew MacKinlay of the opposition Labour Party said the soldier were executed in Flanders, the Somme, Gallipoli and elsewhere for offenses including cowardice, desertion, sleeping at their post, throwing away arms, disobedience and striking superior officers. Many of the men were suffering from shell shock, sleep deprivation and cold, he said.